

ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

A. E. C.—32

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

MEAL TICKET NO. 40193  
VALUE \$7.00.

*Issued to John Smith, Ch. No. 1740*

Good Only at the Mess Houses on the Anchorage Division  
(Camp 101—Turnagain Arm)

NOT TRANSFERABLE

A. E. C. Form 32

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

MEAL TICKET NO. F1879  
VALUE \$15.00.

*Issued to John Brown, Ch. No. 1820*

Good Only at the Mess Houses on the Anchorage Division  
(Telg. & Telp. Dept.)

NOT TRANSFERABLE

A. E. C.—28 b

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

The Coupons of This Book When in the Hands of  
*William Smith, Ch. No. 1892*  
OR THE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, ARE GOOD FOR  
**FIVE DOLLARS (\$5)**  
IN MERCHANDISE  
AT THE STORES OF ANCHORAGE DIVISION.  
(Camp No. 207, Talkeetna Dist.)

A. E. C. 28 c

No. 4674 C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

The Coupons of This Book When in the Hands of  
*C. David & Co.*  
OR THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, ARE GOOD FOR  
**TEN DOLLARS (\$10)**  
IN MERCHANDISE  
AT THE STORES OF ANCHORAGE DIVISION.  
(Camp No. 148—Matanuska Dist.)

Listed page 7 of Ron Benice's book "Alaska Token", are paper chits and meal tickets of the Alaskan Engineering Commission. The A.E.C. was an agency of the Department of the Interior, and was responsible for the construction of the Alaska Railroad. These are obscure items, rarely becoming available on the collector market. It seems that information on them is just about as scarce as they are.

Nick Nugent, a local Fairbanksan who has had the opportunity to do some research in the local libraries (the Borough and University), has brought to our attention some articles from the Alaska Railroad Record, Vol. I, No. 3. There is no date on the pages that we have seen, but they can be dated fairly well to 1916 by the dates on the items carried by the paper.

Displayed with "Circular No. 146" are the covers of four coupon books, illustrating the appropriate method for filling out the books' covers.

"COUPON BOOK MODEL FORMS.  
Department of the Interior  
Alaskan Engineering Commission.  
Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 22, 1916.

Circular No. 146.  
**TO ALL CONCERNED:**  
The following models for filling out coupon book covers are published for the benefit and guidance of all concerned:  
  
Numbers of books have been received without the proper information on book covers. Timekeepers will use care to see that all information  
(continued on page 3)

EDITORIAL

After completing ten years of doing this newsletter, it was very tough getting motivated to do the first issue of the next ten (?) years. But gosh, you guys keep sending money when I ask for it, so I must be doing something right.

This month we bring you a bit of information on an obscure Alaskan item - chits and meal tickets from the Alaskan Engineering Commission, those fine folks that brought us the Alaska Railroad. In 12 years of being in business in Fairbanks, we have never seen any of these! Probably all the model railroaders have them.

This year we are going to try a format change. We are going to try to bring you at least six pages per month of information. The seventh page will be some kind of sales sheet, offering anything new that has come in. This page will not be included in the page count.

Please note that if your subscription has expired (10/88 in your address label), this will be the last issue you will receive unless payment is received.

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Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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Editor - Dick Hanscom  
Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
Scandinavian Corr.- Jørgen Sømød

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Elsewhere \$20 per year

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1 page - \$15 1/2 page - \$8  
1/4 page - \$5  
1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.

Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

10 YEARS OF ATC

We have just taken the masters of all of the past 10 years of ATC to be reprinted and bound. Our current order is for 35 copies.

We are planning on the following maximum printings and the following prices:

Paper bound	100	\$80.00
Fabricoid	25	\$125.00
Leather	10	\$225.00

Fabricoid looks like leather, but is a cloth based binding. As to leather, we are leaning towards natural calfskin.

I shudder when I look at those prices. But, as I am sure you realize, there will be about 550 pages in the volume. And the labor involved in printing such a small quantity of so many pages is expensive.

This reprint will contain all that the originals did, with two exceptions. When we printed on 8.5 by 14 paper, we had a "tail" at the bottom that we used for an order blank. All order blanks will be cropped off at 11 inches. If the order blank extends further up the page, it will also be cropped at 11 inches, leaving part of the order blank visible. There is one long page that contained information. This one will not be cropped. We also included many inserts with the original mailings. These will not be included. I will see what is available of these, and if there is sufficient quantity, they will be included with the leather bound version, and maybe the fabricoid bound version also.

All pages are being printed on paper that is 9 inches wide rather than the standard 8.5 inches. This will leave sufficient space so that binding will not interfere with the text.

The paper bound should be ready by the time you receive this. The leather and fabricoid must be sent outside for binding, and that will take about 3 months.

If you wish to order any of the above, please use the order blank elsewhere in this issue. All prices are postpaid.



A.E.C., cont.

such as Name, Camp Number, District and Division is properly filled in.

H.F. DOSE, Acting Division Engineer."

The following item immediately followed the above. Apparently, they did not want a temporary or short term employee to be able to continue to use the A.E.C. mess or commissary after termination of employment.

#### "ISSUANCE OF COUPON BOOKS.

Department of the Interior  
Alaskan Engineering Commission  
Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 22. 1916.

Circular No. 147

#### TO ALL CONCERNED:

It is apparent that the timekeepers and clerks who are charged with the duty of issuing commissary coupon books and meal ticket coupon books to employees are not using good judgement in selecting the size of the coupon books in these various issues.

I desire that particular attention be given to this matter and that, effective this date, the following procedure be followed:

The \$30.00 meal ticket book should be issued to permanent employees, such as supervising officials, members of the permanent clerical staff at Division Headquarters and various district officers. The personal wishes of these men in regard to the use of a \$7.00 book or \$15.00 book need not be considered. They should be required to take the \$30.00 meal ticket book in accordance with these instructions.

An employee who continues in the service from month to month should anticipate his wants and provide himself with meal tickets and coupon books in sufficiently large denominations to carry him through the month. The present practice of continually drawing books in the smaller denominations only results in unnecessary clerical work.

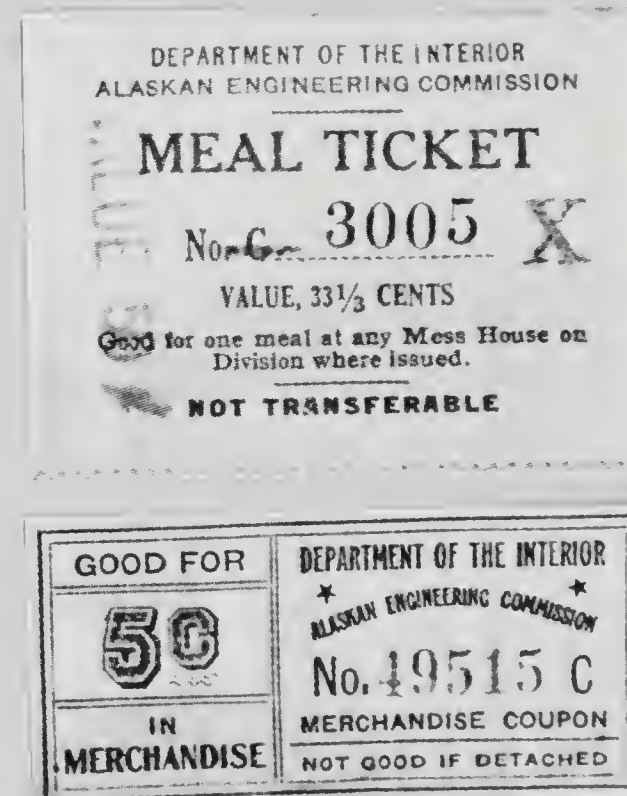
At the same time, timekeepers will use care in issuing books to new employees. Books of large denominations should not be issued to an employee who might be considered working in a temporary capacity. When there is any question about an employee continuing in the service, a book of the smaller denomination should be issued.

Objections have also been received from the Store Department in regard to the prac-

tice of married employees' drawing commissary books in small denominations. Due to the general practice of asking for \$5.00 books, the supply has become exhausted. The \$20.00 commissary books contain five-cent, ten-cent, fifty-cent, and one dollar coupons, and it is just as useful to make small purchases as for larger orders. Married employees enjoying the commissary privilege are requested to provide themselves with sufficient \$20.00 books to cover their monthly requirements and avoid the present practice of drawing several \$5.00 books during the month.

Timekeepers will carefully consider the above instructions and make their issues accordingly.

H.F. DOSE, Acting Division Engineer



#### DIAMOND TOOTH GERTIES UPDATE

A letter from the Klondike Visitors Association to Les Hill indicates that the orange \$5 chip was not issued with gold flecks (noted on our check list in the October, 1988 issue as "not confirmed"). The letter also indicates that the \$25 chips were all of one issue. Well, we have what appears to be one with flecks and one without.

The letter goes on to state that the orange \$5, lavender \$1 and brown 50 cents chips are now obsolete.

Our thanks to Les Hill and the Klondike Visitors Association. The organization is to be commended for help it provides to collectors.



## P.E. HARRIS & COMPANY



(The following is from the Alaska Sportsman, July, 1950.)

The P.E. Harris Company announced last April the sale of its Alaska salmon packing interests to Nick Bez, of the Columbia River Packers and Pacific Exploration Company, and associates. The P.E. Harris interests include salmon canneries at False Pass on Unimak Island and Hawk Inlet in Southeastern Alaska and a marketing organization.

(The photo below is from Alaska Panorama, by A.E. Larkin, 1948.)



## ZAPEL'S

It seems that Edwin Zapel was a busy man in 1938 and 1940. The ad is from the Alaska Sportsman, November 1940. The brief item below is from the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, November 2, 1938.



"Every year the people of Fairbanks and the University students have anticipated the annual Miners' Ball as one of the highlights of the social season on campus.

In the belief that no dance is better than its music, the Miners have secured Zapel's orchestra under the direction of Herb McClarty. The band specializes in modern swing music, and is being offered with the co-operation of Edwin Zapel."

### Zapel's Cottage Bar and COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Fairbanks' Only Real  
Cocktail Lounge

Ladies Like Our Atmosphere

Next to Lacy Street Theater  
Fairbanks, Alaska



FALSE PASS. P. E. Harris cannery on shallow pass between Pacific and Bering Seas.

Frank Beals



FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Cross Roads, Premium Drink. Octagonal, white on blue plastic, 37mm. (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHORAGE: Cross Roads, Well Drink and Beer tokens. Same obverse as above. Both octagonal plastic, 37mm. Well drink is white on red, Beer is black on white (submitted by Ken Rieck).

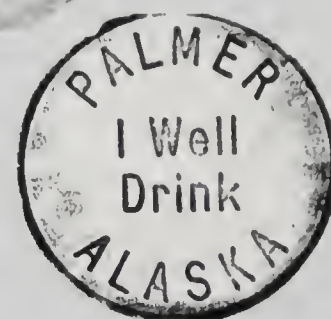


ANCHORAGE: Fork N Spoon Cafe, good for 1 cup of coffee. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

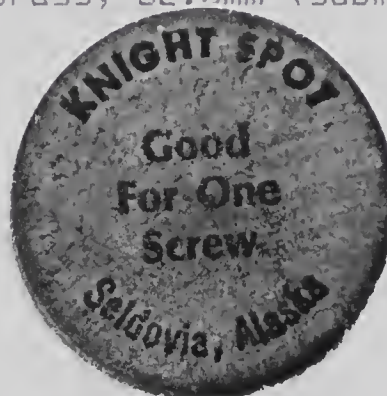


FT. RICHARDSON: Officer's Club, coat check (?). Brass, 48 by 42mm (submitted by Ron Benice).

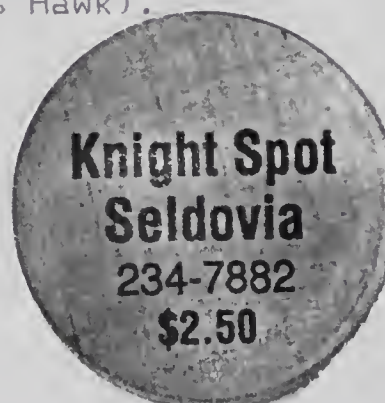
HOUSTON, AK: Triple "B" Bar, one drink. Black on wood. Illustrated at the top of right column (submitted by Ken Rieck).



PALMER: Chace Lounge, 1985, 1 Well Drink. Brass, 32.5mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).



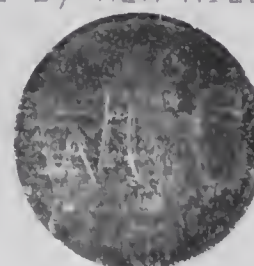
SELDOVIA: Knight Spot, Good for one Screw. Rev. Good for all Knight. Black on wood. Pseudo-whorehouse token? (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



SELDOVIA: Knight Spot, \$2.50. Red on wood. (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



SEWARD: Seward's Folly, overstruck on a quarter (submitted by Ken Rieck).



WILDWOOD: WCC (Wildwood Correction Center), 10 (16mm) and 25 (25mm), both brass (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

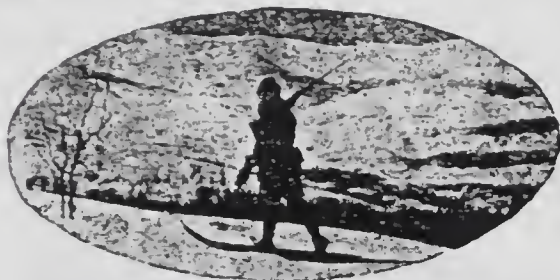


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DAWSON, Y. T.

THE DAYS OF '98, AUGUST 17, 1935



DAWSON, Y. T.

THE DAYS OF '98, AUGUST 17, 1935

5



DAWSON, Y. T.

THE DAYS OF '98, AUGUST 19, 1937

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We reported on this scrip issued in 1937 following our trip to Dawson in 1982. Only one denomination was seen at the Dawson City Museum.

Brian Denman was kind enough to forward to us two copies of the Bonanza Dance Hall scrip of 1935 and one from 1937. All feature a hunter on snow shoes on the front and a gold panner on the back. The denominations and paper colors are as follows: "5" yellow, "10" Pink, "50" white. All are printed with black ink.

The Journal of the Russian Numismatic Society (Box 3013, Alexandria VA 22302), had an extensive article on these notes in the Autumn 1987 issue. Those wishing a copy should contact the Society for information concerning the cost.

50



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THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS

**LACEY STREET HOTEL**

**ROOM 28**

**FAIRBANKS ALASKA**

For travel reservations and information call:

**PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS FAIRBANKS 2118**



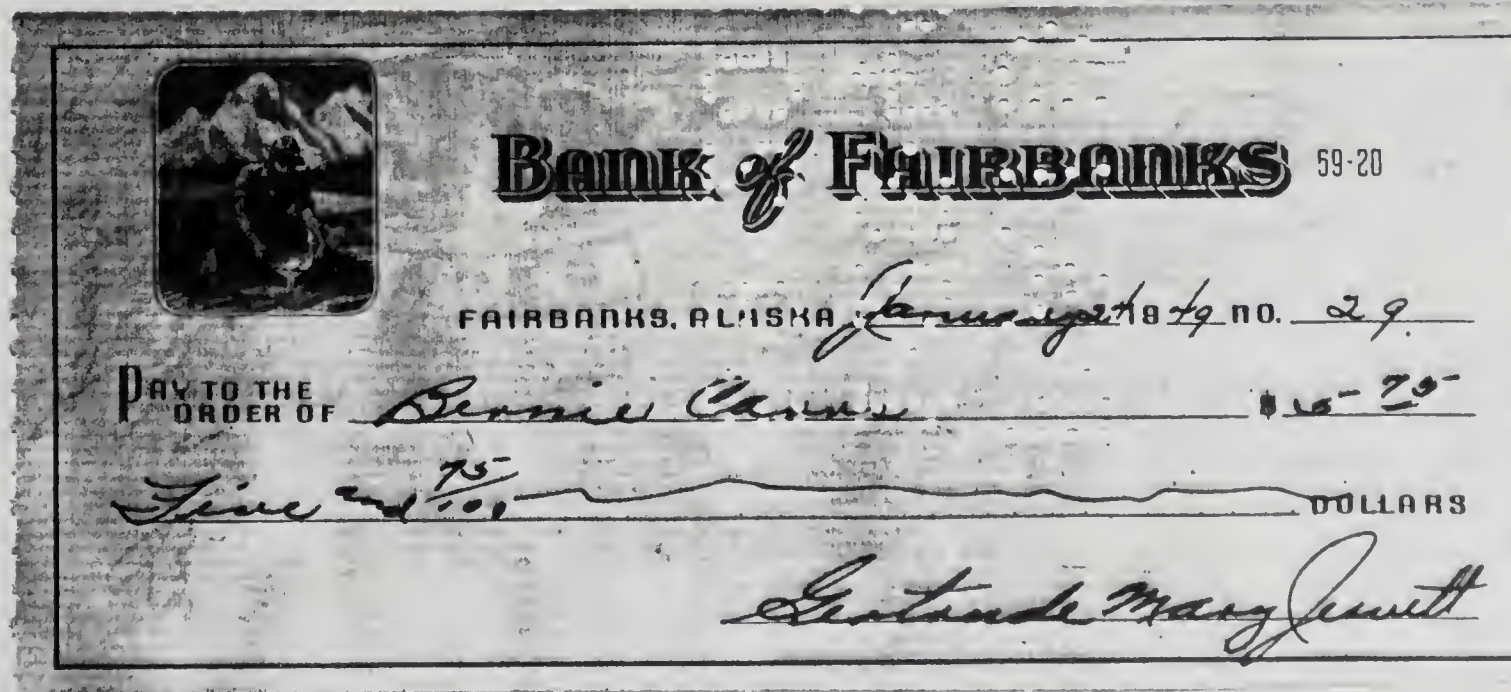
WORLD'S MOST EXPERIENCED AIRLINE



Black on red fiber (above)

Red, blue and black on white plastic (left).

Black on yellow (below).



ORDER BLANK

ORDER BLANK

ORDER BLANK

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING:







EDITORIAL

When I first became aware of the new state proposal to issue an "official" bullion medallion, I became quite concerned. The reason stated by the sponsors was to help give Alaskan miners an outlet for their gold and silver. Of course, this is ridiculous. There is no lack of outlets to sell gold through, and the American Eagle program can utilize all of the U.S. gold produced annually.

Despite testimony not generally favorable, the state passed HB10. I have seen the lack of any real market penetration in other state bullion programs, and wonder how our program can do much better. Why buy an "Alaskan" gold bullion medallion when one can buy an Eagle for the same price? The liquidity of the Eagle is much greater and world wide.

Furthermore, the Alaskan medallion does not have legal tender status: it is not a coin. This presents a marketing problem in some states with sales tax. Some states specifically exempt bullion coins from their sales tax, but they must have legal tender status. Bullion bars are not exempt, and neither would the Alaskan bullion medallion.

People interested in the Alaskan medallion will be collectors at heart. Consequently, the program should have proposed limited quantities to add spice to the product. The other drawback I see is that the obverse design will keep changing year after year - not a good idea for a bullion product.

I wish all the best to the winning bidder. They have a tough road to travel.  
-Jerry Cleworth

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

Editor - Dick Hanscom  
Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
Kenai Peninsula Correspon. - Kurtis Hawk  
Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
Scandinavian Corr.- Jørgen Sømød

ATC 10 YR VOL. UPDATE

These are still at the printers. We are a month behind schedule on these, but have been promised they would be ready next week (we've heard that before). They are all printed, and we are waiting for the paper versions to be bound.

The hard bound copies will be shipped to the bindery as soon as we get them.

There are still a few leather bound copies available. With a printing of only 10 copies, these will probably sell out.

If you wish to order the paper bound, fabricoid bound or leather bound versions of this volume, please use the order blank on the last page.

Oh, there has been one change in this publication since the last issue of the newsletter. It will contain all issues of Alaskan Znachki Bulletin. Since we do not plan to do any more AZB's we thought it would be a good idea to include with the ATC's.

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**WANTED** - For historical research & our book, "Licenses and Badges of B.C." We need dog licences, chauffeurs, taxi, & old drivers licences, auto and vehicle, bicycle, peddlers, canvassers, inspectors, fishing, hunting, & most all other B.C. licences & badges, or any related items for above. We will buy or trade. Many items available for trade: War medals and badges, trade dollars, medallions, Canadian, U.S.A. and world coins & stamps, pocket watches & many misc. items of collectible interests. Please write to

John Hnatiuk, P.O. Box 4944 Phone  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 4A6 596-6303

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1/4 page - \$5  
1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 3 months.

Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.



It is often assumed that platinum was used because of the restrictions on the ownership of gold. Because these medals were manufactured by an agency of the Federal Government, we can assume that they would adhere to the strictest interpretation of the law. But unfortunately, we cannot blame this misguided law. In 1959, Medallic Art Co. struck the official medal for Statehood. These were struck in bronze and silver, but 100 gold were also struck. There were also 50 struck for Hawaiian statehood. Heraldic Arts had a series of medals starting in 1959 and going into the early 1960's. Some of these were also struck in gold. Even the Fairbanks Coin Club had one gold medal made for the "First State Coin Convention" in 1965.

Because of its official status, place of minting, low mintage and precious metal content, this set of three medals is one of the most desirable of all modern Alaskan numismatic items. We are pleased and honored to be able to offer set #51 in our Floor Auction and Mail Bid Sale to be held in Fairbanks on February 24 1989. This lot will be joined by other fine Alaskan items, and a large array of U.S. and world coins. If you would like a copy of this sale, please drop us a note in the mail, or call (907) 452-6461.

## **MORE ON ZAPEL'S**

From the Daily News-Miner, Jan. 11, 1939.

"The premises between First and Second Avenues in Fairbanks have been occupied for a long time by the Zapel's restaurant and cabaret. Recently, however, Mr. E.W. Zapel announced the lease of his property to B.A. Klesinger for a period of ten years. Mr. Klesinger will use the buildings as a coffee house and bakery, and a beer parlor, to be equipped in the most modern way. He has been a chef in many restaurants nationwide and also in Fairbanks for some years."

## **PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND**

J.W. Little issued tokens in four different towns on Prince William Sound: Cordova (1909-11), Ellamar (1902-09), Lathouche (1908-15) and Valdez (1907). Two were native copper tokens.

## **SWIFTWATER BILL GATES**

(see May, 1987 issue of ATC&PN for an article on Swiftwater Bill Gates' "Monte Carlo").

The following is from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, circa November or December 1897.

"Swiftwater Bill," who came out of the Yukon country Sunday, is a guest at the Butler. His name is W.C. Gates, but he is much better known by the sobriquet that he received three years ago while making his way down the Yukon to the goldfields. He had had experience in shooting rapids in the Cariboo country and various other places, until he felt quite at home on the rushing streams. His nature was daredevilish and reckless, too, and when he came to the perilous waters between White Horse rapids and the canyon he laughed at the fears of men who were painfully and laboriously portaging their outfits around the dangerous waters. He did more than laugh. He went through himself in a boat, and when the men saw him do it they secured him to take their outfits through for them. At one time several hundred men witnessed Mr. Gates take through seven men in a boat. It was considered a wonderful feat, and ever since then Mr. Gates has been known by the nickname "Swiftwater Bill."

He is a high roller, a typical product of a rich mining camp. He wears a silk hat, sports a huge diamond stud on his shirt front, and talks with a confidence which only the owner of a Klondike claim can assume. He owns interests in six claims and spends money like water.

"I am going to have the finest opera house in Dawson," he said last evening, "and it will be a beauty. I am going to take up a lot of pretty girls, too."

Ed. note: His finest opera house in Dawson turned into the Monte Carlo. According to the Klondike Nugget newspaper, its grand opening was August 4, 1898. But by October 7 it was under the ownership of William Wilson. Swiftwater Bill had gone on to another project. From 1898 to 1904, the Monte Carlo had no less than 12 different owners.



## ALASKA TO HAVE OFFICIAL GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

On February 10, 1988, House Bill 10 took effect (Alaska Statute 44.09.017). This legislation called for medallions made from Alaskan gold and silver. The bill called for .999 fine gold and silver medals in weights to be decided upon by the commissioner of administration. Only Alaskan gold and silver can be used for the medals.

On November 7, 1988, the Department of Administration issued Request for Proposals number 12315. This called for proposals by private firms to design, mint and market gold and silver medals as authorized under A.S. 44.09.017.

The RFP required proposers to indicate what type of program they would institute. It was plain from the wording of the RFP that the State was looking for a program that would be massive in scope and be designed to compete with other major bullion programs such as the U.S. Eagle, Canadian Maple Leaf, Australian Nugget and Chinese Panda.

Alaska Rare Coin Investments did not feel that this type of a program would be successful. Our proposal called for a limited issue of just 1 ounce gold and silver and 1/4 ounce gold. These were to be sold at a fairly high premium with generous royalties going to the State.

Since we did not design the type of program that the State was looking for, it is not surprising that we finished third out of the three firms submitting proposals.

### AND THE WINNER IS...

Alaska Precious Metals of Anchorage submitted the winning proposal. Their program is just what the State wanted.

The design contest is massive in scope. A "mailing to all students in each and every school and college" will be used to encourage all Alaskans to participate in the design contest. APM will be selecting four designs: two for the gold medallions and two for the silver medallions. The designs will be for the calendar years 1988 and 1989. The winners will be awarded compensation not to ex-

ceed \$1000 as called for in AS 44.09.017.

APM's proposal calls for the minting of the following medals along with projected sales figures.

1 oz. gold	30,000
1/2 oz. gold	10,000
1/4 oz. gold	20,000
1/10 oz. gold	20,000
1 oz. silver	50,000
1/2 oz. silver	30,000
1/4 oz. silver	30,000
1/10 oz. silver	15,000

Furthermore, proof versions of both 1 oz. gold and silver medals will be struck, limited to 30,000 per year. So totalling that all up, we see a projected use of 102,000 ounces of gold and 134,000 ounces of silver over a two year period. APM estimates that there is only approximately 30,000 ounces of silver produced in Alaska annually as a by product of gold processing. They admit that this might present a problem in using only Alaskan silver. The minting of the medals will take place at APM's Mint Division located in Oregon.

APM has designed a distributor/dealer network that should assure those that want to purchase these medals for resale or possession will be able to do so. Pricing is set to compete with the major bullion coins, so the net effect is that retail customers should be able to purchase the 1 ounce gold medals for between five and six percent above spot price.

As for marketing, APM is in the process of setting up dealer network outside the state of Alaska, including tele-marketing firms. They are well tied in to dealer trading networks outside the state.

APM plans a total budget for 1989 of \$269,000. This includes \$9,500 for the design contest and \$89,800 for advertising. They anticipate a profit of \$490,750 for 1989 from the program.

Total royalty to the State of Alaska, based on projected sales would be \$631,250.

Only one question remains: Can the fairy tale come true? See our editorial.



## JAKE NAFSTED

(From the Alaska Sportsman, 7/52)

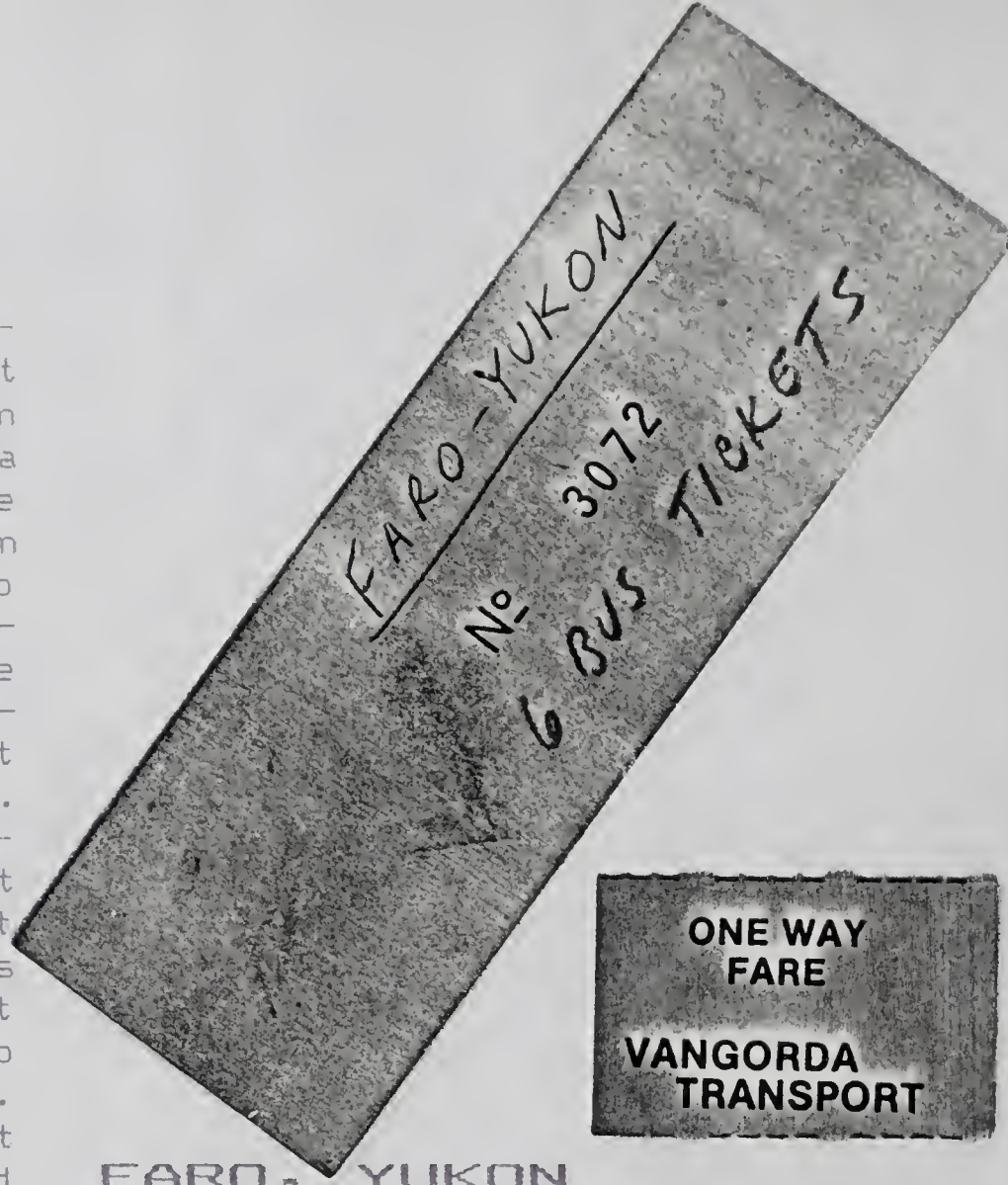
"When Mr. and Mrs. Jake Nafsted, Fairbanks pioneers, returned home late last March from their first trip Outside in twenty-eight years, they were riding in a brand-new four-door Dodge sedan. The Dodge was not a part of their vacation plans. Just before they were scheduled to leave Seattle on their way home, Mrs. Nafsted was notified by telephone that she had won the Dodge on a ticket she had purchased at the Norway Center benefit bazaar. "I was fit to be tied," she said. "It was the first time I ever won anything in my life! Jake was out looking at Leonhard Seppala's dogs, and I couldn't reach anyone I knew by phone, and it was hours before I could tell anyone about it!" Mort O'Mayer drove the couple to Fairbanks by way of the Alaska Highway. "It's been twenty-five years since eight of us has driven at all," Mrs. Nafsted said, "and the traffic pattern has changed so much. We'll probably sell the car, but we certainly did enjoy that trip home in it!"



## ALASKA SILVER COIN



When I first came to Fairbanks, I noticed the above item in a display case at Frontier Sporting Goods. We just came across a couple, and decided to dredge up a little information. There were 1,000 struck, and they were made to the order of Dick McIntyre of Frontier Sporting Goods. He does not remember which mint he used. We have only two for sale, see the last page.



## FARO, YUKON

John Cheramy sent the ticket from Vangorda Transport of Faro, Yukon. The ticket illustrated above (with the booklet) is 40mm x 25mm, while the book is 111mm x 40mm. The ticket is black on yellow, while the booklet is pale blue.

We have contacted Vangorda Transport, and obtained complete books of obsolete tickets. Both are different than those provided by John.

The first is a black on red ticket measuring 25mm x 37mm. The booklet is 118mm x 37mm. It contains 16 tickets, 4 per page. These were in use for only a short time as there was a robbery and most books were stolen.

The second is very similar to the tickets sent in by John Cheramy. The tickets are 30mm x 38mm while the booklet is 108mm x 38mm. The tickets are black on yellow while the booklet is red on pale blue.

These two types of booklets are available from ARCI and are illustrated on the last page.

The tickets are used for transportation from the town to the mine site, a distance of approximately 20km.



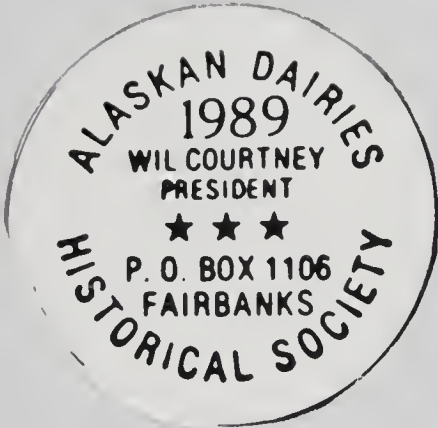
FOR THE RECORD



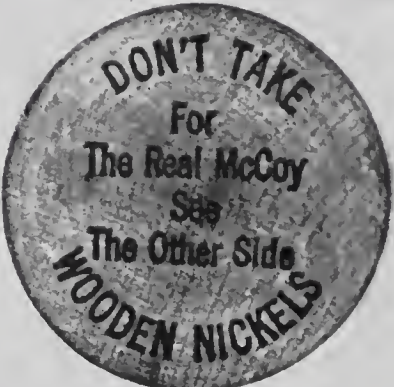
CLEAR, AK: Clear Sky Lodge, Good for one Beer. Gold anodized aluminum, 40mm.



IDITAROD TRAIL RACE: 1981 Wooden nickel, black lettering (submitted by Kurtis Hawk)



FAIRBANKS: Alaskan Dairies Historical Society plastic token, purple on white. Available from the Society for \$1 plus SASE.



KENAI: Hunger Hut Bar, good for one drink, black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 1 oz. silver bar given to employees for Christmas, 1988.

**Putter Buck**

\$2

This Buck Can Be Used For Any Food Or Beverage Purchase

4½ Miles East Road • Homer

Cash Value 1/20 of 1 Cent

**VALUABLE COUPON**

HOMER: Putter Inn, Putter Buck (1988). 50mm by 95mm, uniface, white with black lettering (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



MT. VIEW, ANCHORAGE: VFW Post #10252. One drink tokens: 1) black on wood. 2) 32mm aluminum (submitted by Ken Rieck).



NAKNEK, AK: Red Dog Saloon. Good for a drink, drawing of dog. Red on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



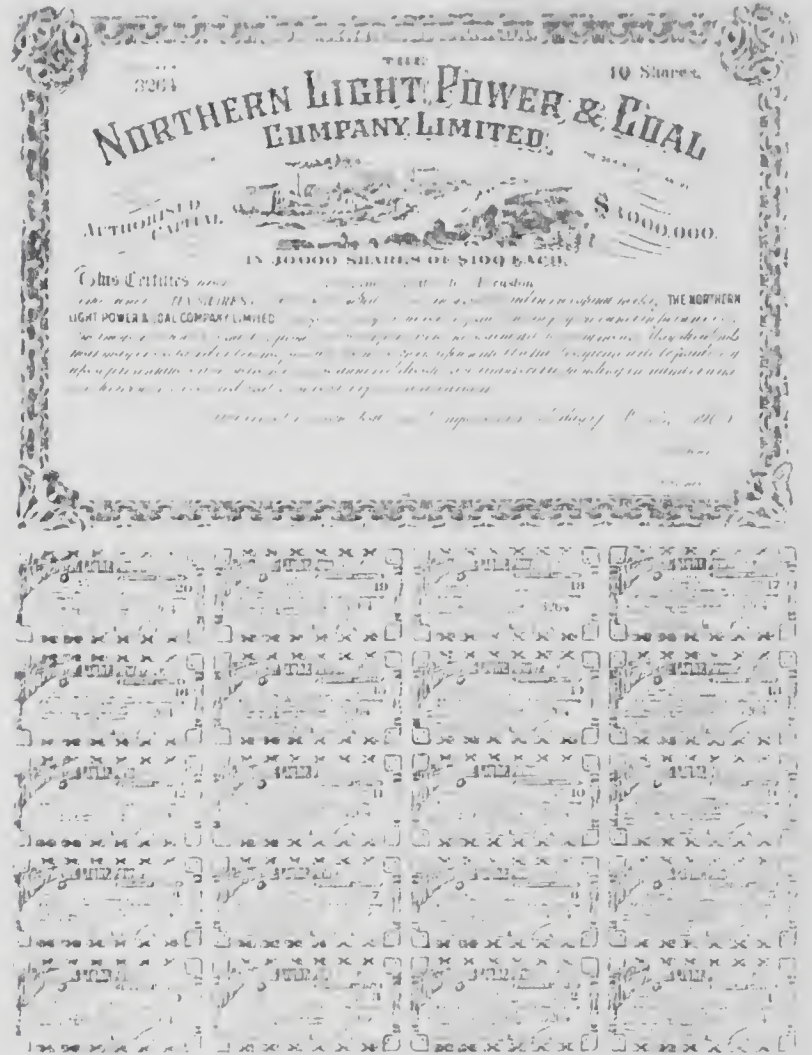
THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS



No 202

ONE WAY  
FARE  
VANGORDA  
TRANSPORT  
ONE WAY  
FARE  
VANGORDA  
TRANSPORT  
ONE WAY  
FARE  
VANGORDA  
TRANSPORT  
ONE WAY  
FARE  
VANGORDA  
TRANSPORT

No 9067



NORTHERN POWER, LIGHT & COAL CO. LTD.

This was Dawson's power company. The above stock was issued in 1909. The certificate is for 10 shares at \$100 per share. Dividend coupons are still attached. The printing is green, with a nice vignette of an industrial city (obviously not Dawson!). It is 308 mm wide by 400 mm high. A very nice piece of financial history, suitable for framing. A very limited supply available. Order now to avoid disappointment. A history of this company is available to purchasers of these certificates.

FARO, YUKON BUS TICKETS

Illustrated above, and described on page 11.

ORDER BLANK

ORDER BLANK

ORDER BLANK

SETS OF 2 BOOKS OF VANGORDA TRANSPORT TICKETS @ \$6 PER SET-----

NORTHERN POWER, LIGHT & COAL CO. LTD. CERTIFICATE @ \$55-----

ALASKA SILVER COIN @ \$30-----

POSTAGE AND HANDLING FOR THE ABOVE ITEMS-----





A.R.C.I., P.O. BOX 2832, FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 \* SUBSCRIPTION \$10.00/YR.  
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 3.

MARCH, 1989.

## NUMISMATICA FROM A YUKON GHOST TOWN

by

Brian J. Denman

Today one may travel a newly opened road between Whitehorse, Yukon and Skagway, Alaska where once only the White Pass Railroad ran. About twelve miles southeast of Carcross, Yukon, along this road one may see traces of an old wooden aerial tramway clinging to the side of Montana Mountain and at the foot of the slope a few derelict buildings hug the shore of Windy Arm of Tagish Lake. These ruins are all that is left to remind us of the once booming mining town of Conrad.

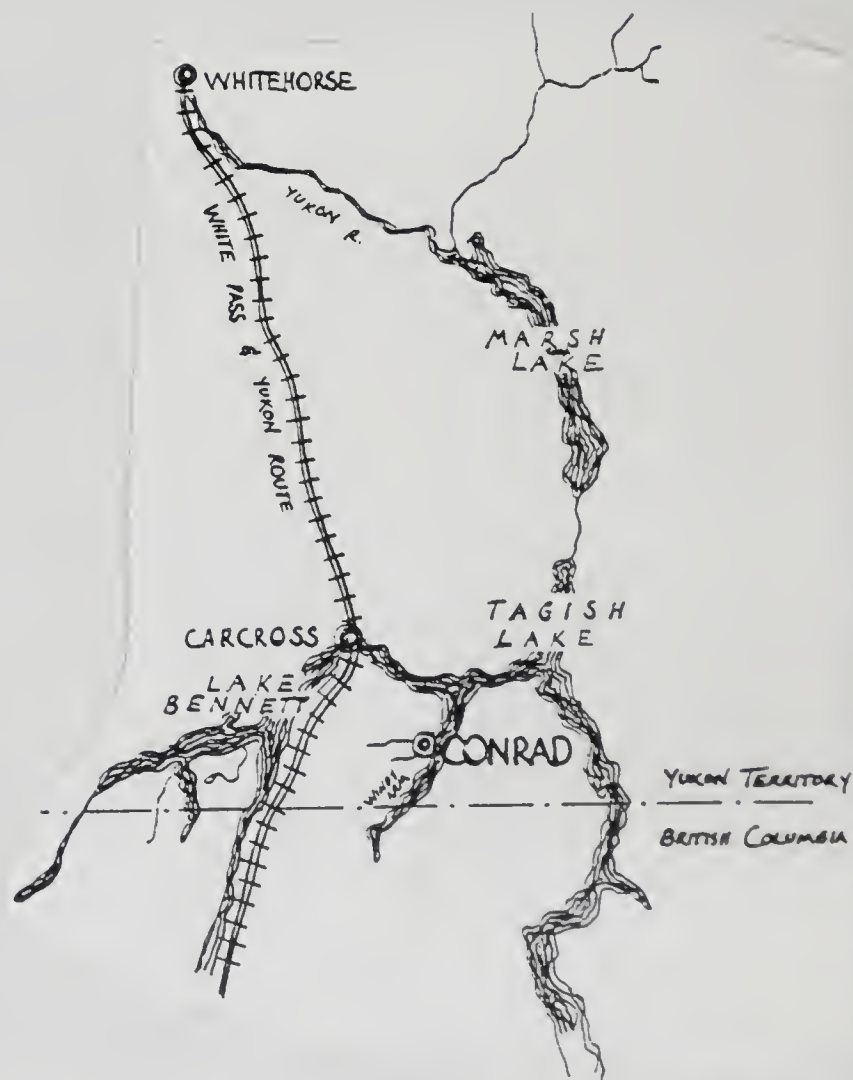
The townsite was named after a Col. John H. Conrad, an American mining promoter, who opened a number of mines in the area, the first being the Montana Mine. The mining company he headed - Conrad Consolidated Mining Corp. - built an aerial tramway to carry ore from the mine some 3700 feet above to Conrad City on Windy Arm where the ore was shipped to Carcross.

A post office was established in 1906 with James Murray as postmaster. During those first few years, Conrad was quite a going concern with a scheduled steamboat service to Carcross, a telephone system, District Mining Recorder, a number of stores, hotels and churches.

Apparently the ore deposits were erratic and not as large as expected. Activity quickly diminished, (the post office closed by 1910) and by 1912 Conrad Consolidated had ceased operations. Another concern tried to restart the mines but a fall in the price of silver in 1914 brought about an end to the mine, and in turn the town was abandoned.

No tokens are known from Conrad, yet this short-lived mining town still left us a modest numismatic legacy.

In the MacBride Museum in Whitehorse, there are two tattered samples of a meal ticket from the Windy Arm Hotel in Conrad. They apparently

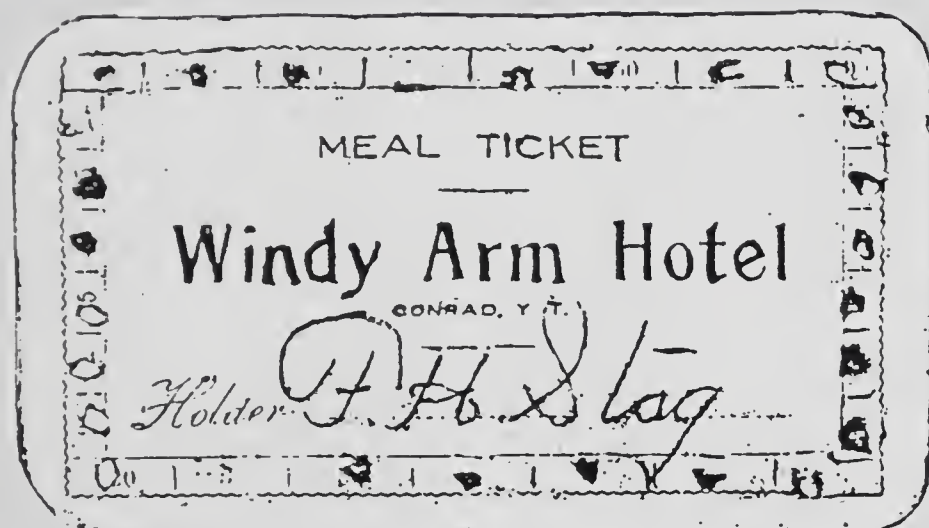


Continued on page 15



CONRAD, Y.T., cont.

were removed from an abandoned building there and are in extremely bad condition. Meal tickets were bought by customers at a discount (e.g. \$3.50 for \$5 worth of meals) to ensure patronage of the issuing establishment. Denominations were printed around the edge of the card usually in increments of 25¢ and 50¢ totalling the overall value of the meal ticket. As the customer used his card the value of his meal was punched out of the ticket. The illustration below (figure 1)

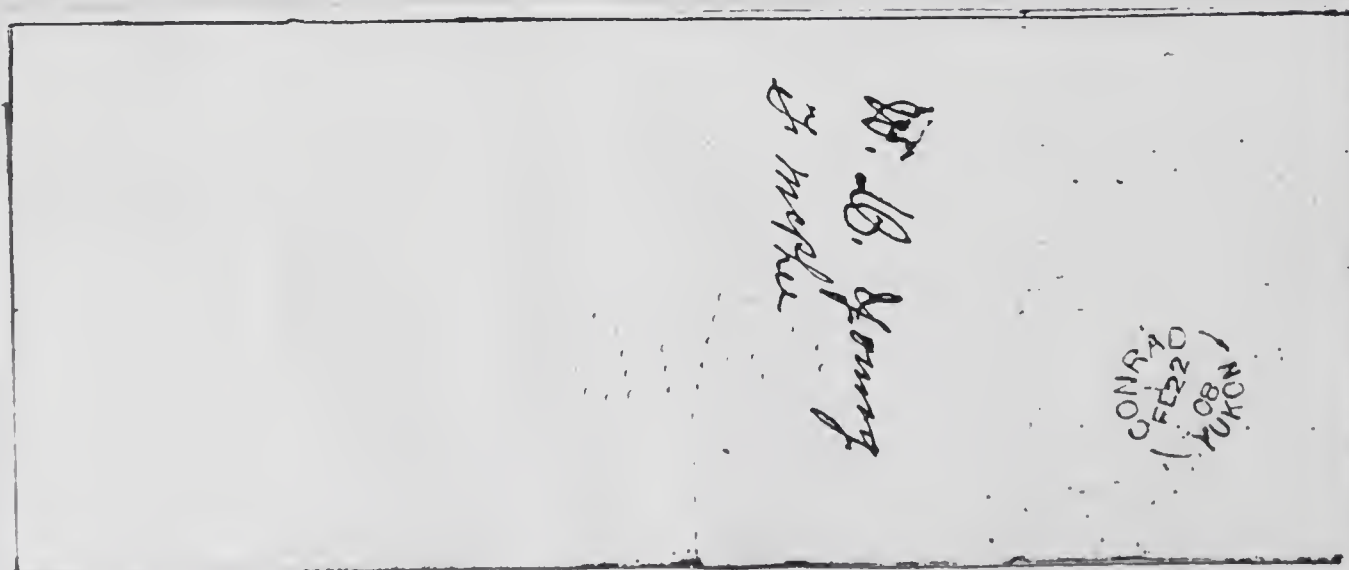
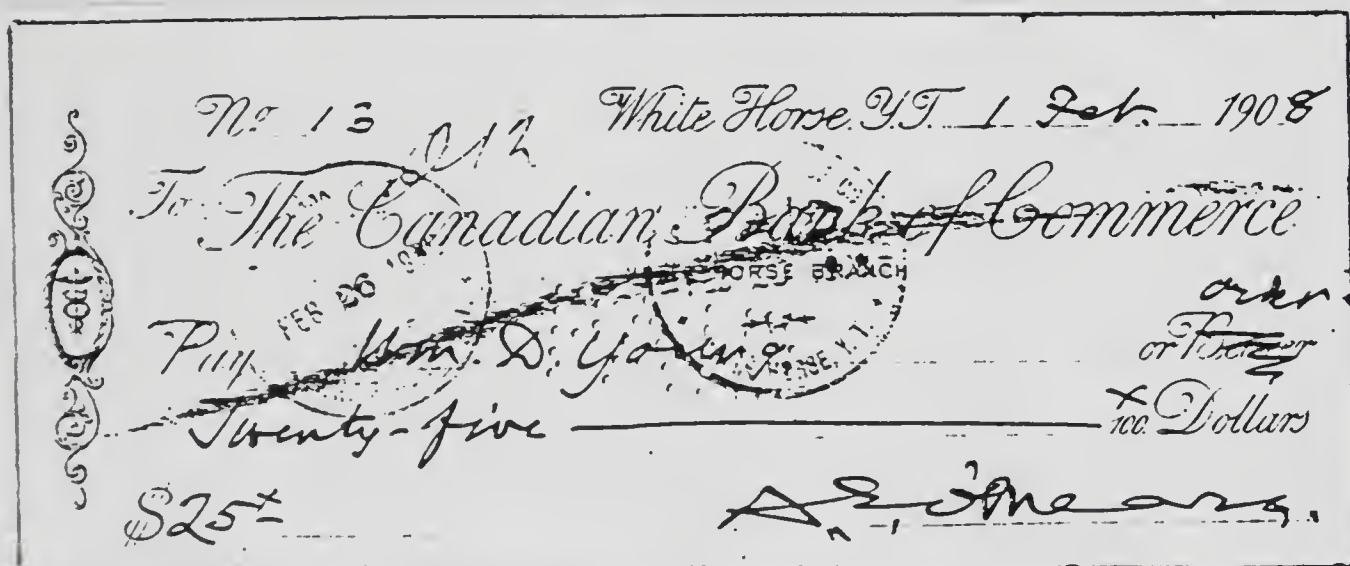


is a reconstruction of the tickets. The originals measure 58mm by 100mm and because of their deteriorated state are of unknown color.

Another item of interest to the numismatist is a cheque from the Canadian Bank of Commerce in White Horse, Y.T. and made out to a Mr. W.D. Young. A few samples of these cheques exist but the one in the author's collection is dated February 1, 1908 (see figure 2). It was apparently cashed by Mr. Young in Conrad on February 22, 1908. The back of the cheque bears the scarce postmark of Conrad and is countersigned by the postmaster F. McPhee. Frank McPhee took over running the post office in 1908 after the resignation of the first post master J. Murray. Mr. McPhee was the local manager for A.P. Queen grocers of Vancouver, B.C. He passed away in 1909.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. W.G. Robinson, an authority on Yukon postal history; Mr. Donald Stewart and finally Mrs. Deb Denman for the map illustration.





## EDITORIAL

As most longtime subscribers know, I generally take a month off about now. Looks like I will continue without a break until the July. We are planning a vacation back to New England, so that will be my first of two months off from the newsletter.

We would like to thank Brian Denman for his fine article on Conrad. This gives a good historical overview of the ghost town.

The second article gives a first hand account of the early days of Conrad. It even gives the names of some potential token issuers. Some one needs to get to the old townsite with a metal detector!! We have had this article in our files for some time, waiting for the right time to use it, and this was it.

As always, we are in need of articles, short features, space fillers and items for the record. If you have any information that you would like to share, please send it in. Your subscription will be extended an appropriate amount for anything that we use. Alaskan trivia is always welcome.

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
Kenai Peninsula Correspon. - Kurtis Hawk  
Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
Scandinavian Corr. - Jørgen Sæmod

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1/4 page - \$5	
1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.	

Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## SOHIO/BP TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE BONDS

On the last page of this issue is this month's offerings. Featured this month are the "bonds that built the pipeline." We have purchased a moderate hoard of these, and can offer a wide range of values. These will be offered to the tourists this summer and are sure to be popular as an inexpensive gift for that friend or relative that is difficult to buy for. We are offering these to our readers first so that you will have the largest selection to choose from.

Denominations available are listed and described, along with overprint varieties. The \$10,000 bond illustrated is reduced in size (actual size is 303mm by 207mm). All other illustrations are actual size.

The three high, odd denomination bonds are one of a kind.

These are neat historical items, and this a chance to pick up each regular denomination issued. We only have three sets of the 12 different bonds. These are sure to go fast, so do not hesitate.

Please order early to avoid disappointment!

### SELECTED PRICES REALIZED-2/24/89

ARRC, 1¢ and \$1	80.00
ARRC, \$5	80.00
ARRC, \$10	110.00
Alakanuk, B-1a,c,d,e,f	55.00
Savoonga, B-1, a to h	130.00
Shismaref, B-1, a to e	32.00
Purchase Centennial Platinum Set	675.00
U of A Woolly Mammoth Gold	490.00
AYPE Pins, box of 100	125.00
AK paper collectibles	44.00



**SEPTEMBER 2&3, 1989**  
**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

#### Show Information:

George Hosek  
7411 Idledale Ln  
Omaha, NE 68112  
(402) 455-1905

#### Location:

Ramada Inn Airport  
Abbott Drive & Locust  
Omaha, NE 68110

#### Rooms:

1 (800) 272-6232  
1 (402) 342-5100

**BUY-SELL-TRADE TOKENS-MEDALS-MORE**



## THAT TOWN OF CONRAD

### Star Editor Visits New Mining Camp on Windy Arm Prospects For Future Growth and Development Are Bright

On his way home from a trip to Skagway this week E.J. White of the Star stopped off at Caribou from which place he was driven to Conrad, the new mining town on Windy Arm by Captain Fitz Horrigan, officer in charge of the Royal N.W.M.P. station at Caribou. The captain learned to drive some years ago.... His are the dual qualifications of being an excellent driver and most congenial traveling companion at the same time.

The winter road from Caribou to Conrad lies on the chilled bosom of Lake Tagish and Little Windy Arm over which Old Bory's ice blasts sweep with nothing to molest or make them afraid. These heavy winds drift the trail very badly in some places, making travel at times quite laborious although Weisdepp's Diamond W stage line with four horses or mules makes a round trip over the route every day with freight and passengers, the 11 miles being covered in about two hours time.

The town of Conrad is yet in embryo but all look forward to a great rush in a few weeks. The principle business houses in town to date are the office of General Mine Manager G.A. Singer from which all the business of operating all the work at the mine is directed; the Windy Arm Hotel, Watson & Son proprietors; the Conrad City Hotel and restaurant, W.H. Wooldrige proprietors; Alex Chisholm, general hardware; Home & Prouts, cigars and tobacco; Frenchy's general resort and ???? emporium, laundry and bath house; and the Dominion telegraph office where Jack Hope, the Star's valued correspondent manipulates the key. Other new buildings are going up as rapidly as material can be obtained. Contractors Cousins & Hume of this place are to have a \$1950 business house completed for August Voepel by March 1st.

Business lots are in great demand, sites that were quoted at \$150 six weeks ago are now quoted at \$500 but owners are not anxious to sell at any price.

At the mines work is being carried on steadily and a dozen or more mines will be opened and operated by the early spring. A pack train of mules makes daily trips to the Montana mine to bring down ore and will be continued until the tramway, almost completed last fall, is finished at the first breaking up of the winter. The matter of constructing a smelter or reduction works will also receive attention in the spring.

But Conrad is not the only coming town of the south end of the territory. Caribou, the railway and steamboat center, is already assuming pretentious airs. Many new buildings have lately been constructed there and a score or more others are in contemplation. Caribou is destined to experience a most vigorous and substantial growth during the coming spring and summer.

(The preceding is from the White Horse Star, January 6, 1906.)

The postcard below was made for  
Zaccarelli's Fruit, Book & Stationery Store.







McFarlane Preferred Certificate

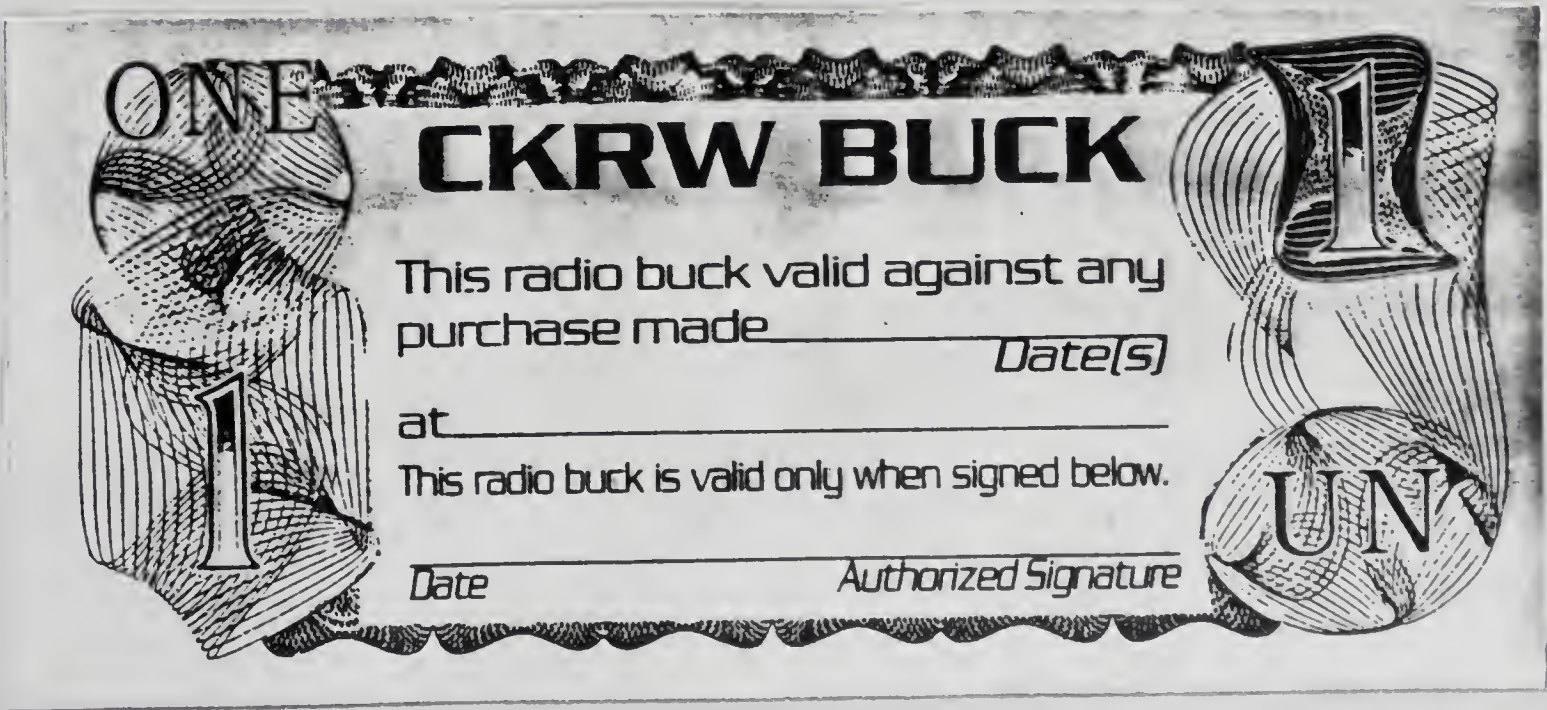
After your purchases  
from McFarlane  
Trading Co. total  
\$200.00 as herein  
recorded, this  
certificate becomes  
worth \$20.00 to us,  
and maybe applied to  
any further purchase  
you make at this  
store.

Amount

Initial

Total

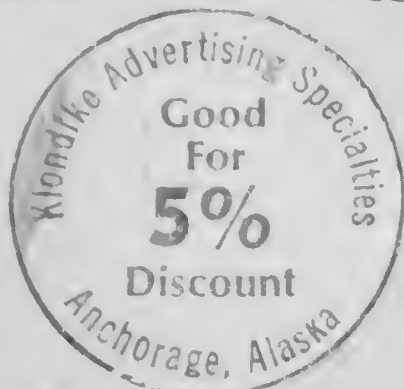
McFARLANE TRADING CO.: Preferred Certificate. Good for \$20 after you spend \$200. Illustration reduced. Actual size, 213mm by 88mm. Color is black on the most gawdawful lime green imaginable! (submitted by Brian Denman).



CKRW BUCK: CKRW is a privately owned radio station in Whitehorse. Obviously used in an advertising promotion. Black on light green, 152mm by 68mm (submitted by Brian Denman).



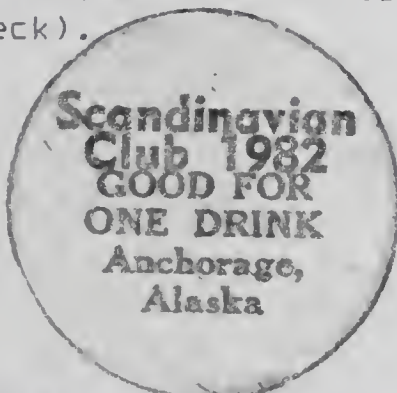
# FOR THE RECORD



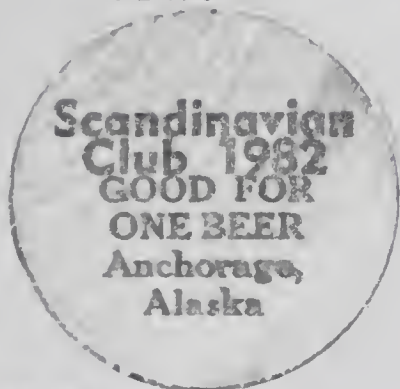
ANCHORAGE: Klondike Advertising Specialties, 5% discount, red on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



ANCHORAGE: McDonald's, good for 1 cup of Coffee, red on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



ANCHORAGE: Scandinavian Club, 1982, good for one drink, red on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



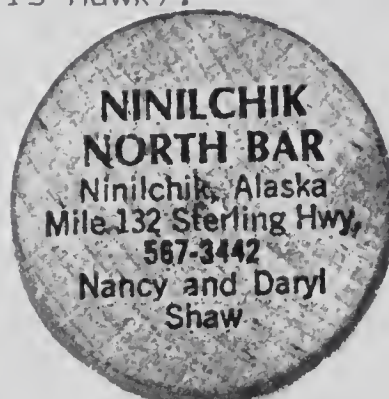
ANCHORAGE: Scandinavian Club, 1982, good for one beer, blue on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



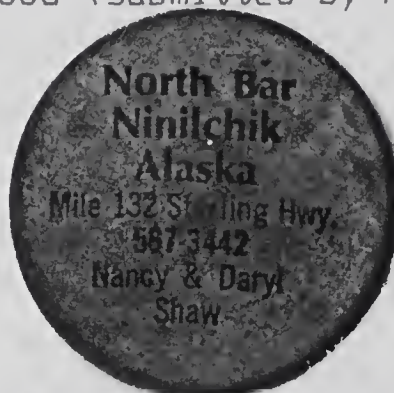
DAWSON, Y.T.: J.L. Sale & Co., Gold scale weight for 2 DOLS (\$2). 18mm, concave, made from German silver (submitted by Brian Denman).



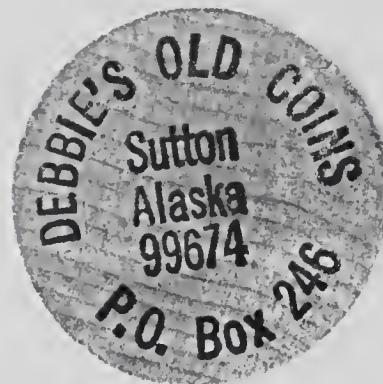
MONTANA CREEK: Montana Creek Lodge, In trade, \$2.00. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



NINILCHIK: North Bar, Wooden Nickel, red on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



NINILCHIK: North Bar, good for one drink, black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



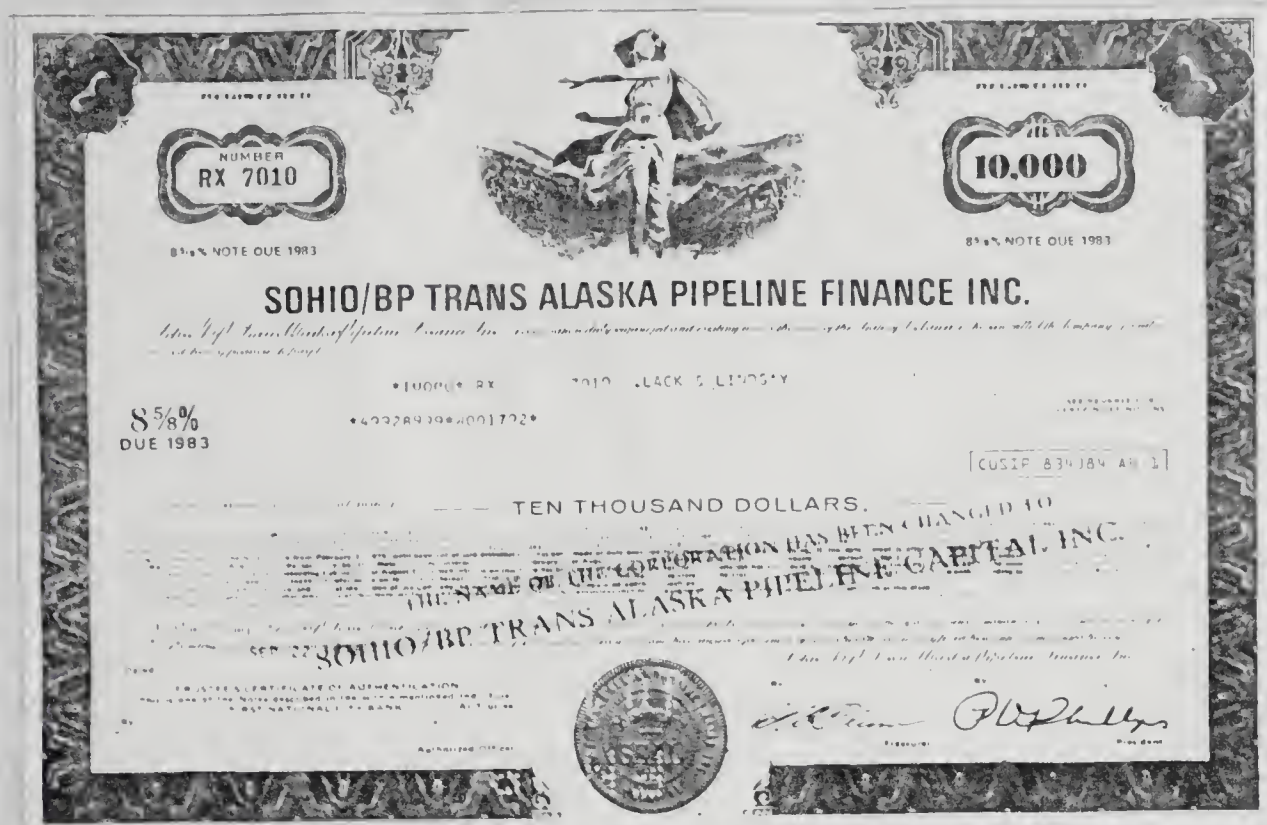
SUTTON: Deb's Old Coins, wooden nickel, black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE: Hotel Imperial, 20 centavos in merchandise. Brass, 21mm. Punta Arenas is on the mainland of South America across the Straits of Magellan from Tierra del Fuego. Another token from this hotel was featured on page 34 of 1984. Other tokens from Punta Arenas were featured 84-18, 85-19, and 86-51.



# THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS



\$10,000 Bond with overprint #2

under the laws of the State of Delaware (herein called the "Company"), for value

NAME CHANGED TO  
SOHIO BP TRANSALASKA PIPELINE CAPITAL INC.  
CUSIP 834084 AB 1  
DOLLARS

currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of in like coin or currency, at the rate of 8 5/8% per annum, from the February 1 or the August 1, as the case may interest on the Notes has been paid or duly provided for, in which case from the date of this Note), or, if no ding the foregoing, if the date hereof is after the fifteenth day of any January or July and before the

Overprint #1

## SOHIO/BP TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE FINANCE INC.

_____	\$1000 Bond, purple @ \$4.00-----	_____
_____	\$5000 Bond, orange @ \$5.00-----	_____
_____	As above, but with overprint #2 @ \$5.00-----	_____
_____	\$10,000 Bond, brown @ \$6.00-----	_____
_____	As above, but with overprint #2 @ \$6.00-----	_____
_____	\$25,000 Bond, olive with typed in value @ \$6.00-----	_____
_____	As above, but with overprint #1 @ \$6.00-----	_____
_____	As above, but with overprint #2 @ \$6.00-----	_____
_____	\$50,000 Bond, olive with typed in value @ \$7.00-----	_____
_____	As above, but with overprint #2 @ \$7.00-----	_____
_____	\$100,000 Bond, olive with typed in value @ \$8.00-----	_____

REGISTERED



8 5/8% NOTE DUE 1983

REGISTERED



8 5/8% NOTE DUE 1983

REGISTERED



8 5/8% NOTE DUE 1983



# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR & POLAR NUMISMATIST

A.R.C.I., P.O. BOX 2332, FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 \* SUBSCRIPTION \$10.00/YR.  
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 4.

APRIL, 1989.



PACIFIC COAST & NORWAY PACKING CO.  
TONKA, ALASKA  
by  
Sydney Wright



Here is a treasure found story for all you Alaskan token collectors.

I first became interested in tokens via the metal detector in 1979. My first contact with an expert was Nick Nickell. He knew that I had found some "R8" Petersburg tokens and in his pursuit of my dupes, he got me well started in my own collection. In the intervening time I picked up some hitherto unknown tokens, mostly Petersburg. This story is about the latest and to me the most interesting.

Everyday when I walk to school three blocks from my house, I go past my friend's house, Grant Trask, a young commercial fisherman. We always exchange greetings. Well, Grant had been remodeling his old Petersburg home for years. On this particular day I stopped, as usual, and he said, "Look what I found in the wall of the house." He showed me a Seated Liberty dime. I admired it and asked him if that was all he had found. "Well," he says, "That's all except this old token." Then he showed me a marvel: PC&N PKG. CO. STORE, TONKA, ALASKA, GOOD FOR 10¢ IN TRADE.

Tonka was a site of an abandoned cannery established in 1901. It is six miles south of Petersburg on Wrangell Narrows on Kupranof Island. It had a post office from 1902 until 1905. As you probably know, the Petersburg Pacific Coast & Norway Packing Co. tokens are rare tokens.

Well, Grant knew I was a token collector and was pulling my leg a little, so we began to dicker. He'd already decided to give it to me so bargaining wasn't too tough. I told him it had potential value so we settled on 14 dungeness crab out of my live tank.

Do you think the price was too high?



## EDITORIAL

Our thanks this month to Syd Wright for his article on the Tonka token (sound like play money?). It is a neat little piece. If his friend were not remodeling, who can say if this would have ever come to light. As we have always said, it is a discovery like this that makes collecting tokens fun.

As for trading 14 dungeness crabs for the token, I told Syd that it was cruel and inhumane punishment to mention that in the article. The one thing I really miss about New England is the seafood!

As you will notice, we have cut back to four pages of information and one page of advertising this issue. We wanted to do six pages each month and one of current items that we had for sale, but this month we are short on information.

We are in need of a few lead articles, and many space fillers from a few lines to a full column. If you submit fillers and they are used, you will receive an extension on your subscription.

Remember, reader submissions are what keeps this publication interesting.

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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Scandinavian Corr.- Jørgen Sømmod

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1/4 page - \$5  
1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.  
Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## GOLD NUGGET TOKEN SANS NUGGET



Harold Fossum has an interesting piece. The above illustrated item is the Anchorage Native Virgin Gold & Copper token, without a nugget. Harold says that it shows no trace of soldering or brazing.

He would like to know (as would we all) what the initials VAL stand for. He would also like to know who issued this piece.

Anyone with information on this item can contact Harold Fossum, P.O. Box 210127, Auke Bay, AK 99821, or your editor.

Perhaps with some searching, we can solve a mystery!

## 10 YEAR UPDATE

Our printer is having trouble affixing the paper covers, but we should have them, hopefully, by the end of the week. Fabricoid and leather bound versions should be sent to the bindery at about the same time.

I must apologize for the delay in these. It has just been one snafu with the printer after another. And I don't think it is high on their priority list.

Anyone requesting a refund will of course receive one.

## PORTFOLIO PAGES

The last page of this issue is an order blank for our portfolio pages. We are very excited about this product.

We have received samples, and have placed our first order. They should arrive in about a month. Unless you think this is neatest thing since sliced bread, suggest you try a sample first.

Can't wait to put my Yukon trade tokens in them!





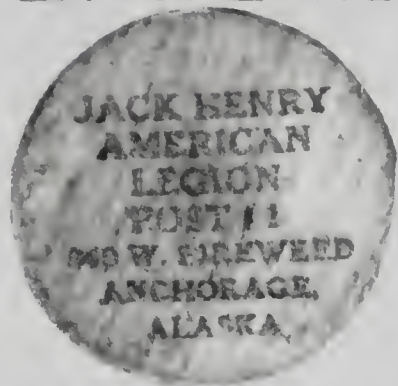
ANCHORAGE: The Space Station, Megabucks. These are awarded for report card grades and are good towards free video game play. Illustration actual size, black print on blue paper (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).



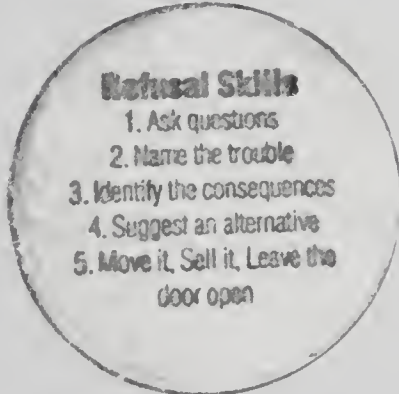
ANCHORAGE: Guido's, \$2 Guido's Bucks. Illustration reduced, actual size 206 mm by 83mm, black on green paper (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).



## FOR THE RECORD



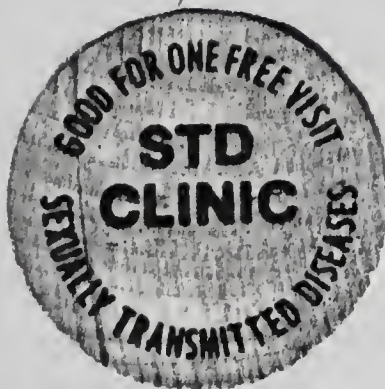
ANCHORAGE: American Legion, Jack Henry Post #1, Good for one free drink. Black on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



ANCHORAGE: MOA-DHHS Health Education, Refusal Skills. Black on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



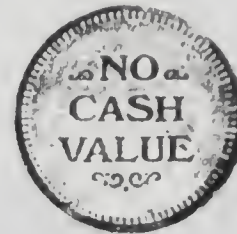
ANCHORAGE: Oriental Gardens Restaurant, Good for \$1.00. Brass, 29mm. Neat ornamental style reminiscent of older tokens (submitted by David Bennison).



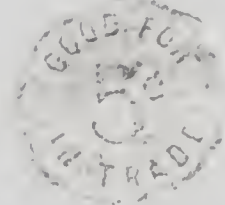
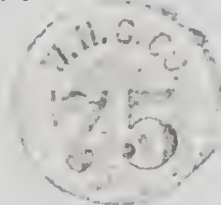
ANCHORAGE: STD Clinic (Socially Transmitted Diseases), Good for one free visit. Black on wood. Alaska may not have a genuine whorehouse token, but we have one for the results! (submitted by David Bennison).



JUNEAU: Peerless Bakery, Good For One Peerless Bread. Scalloped (10) aluminum, 26 mm.



KODIAK: Blairville Laser Station, video game token. Brass, 23 mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).



MAVERICK: W.H.C.CO., 5¢ in trade. Brass, 21mm. Being offered as White Horse Copper Company. Your editor is skeptical.



PALMER: Elks Lodge, Good for one drink. Brass, 34 mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).



SOLDOTNA: Elks Lodge, "Charter Issue". Brass, 33 mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

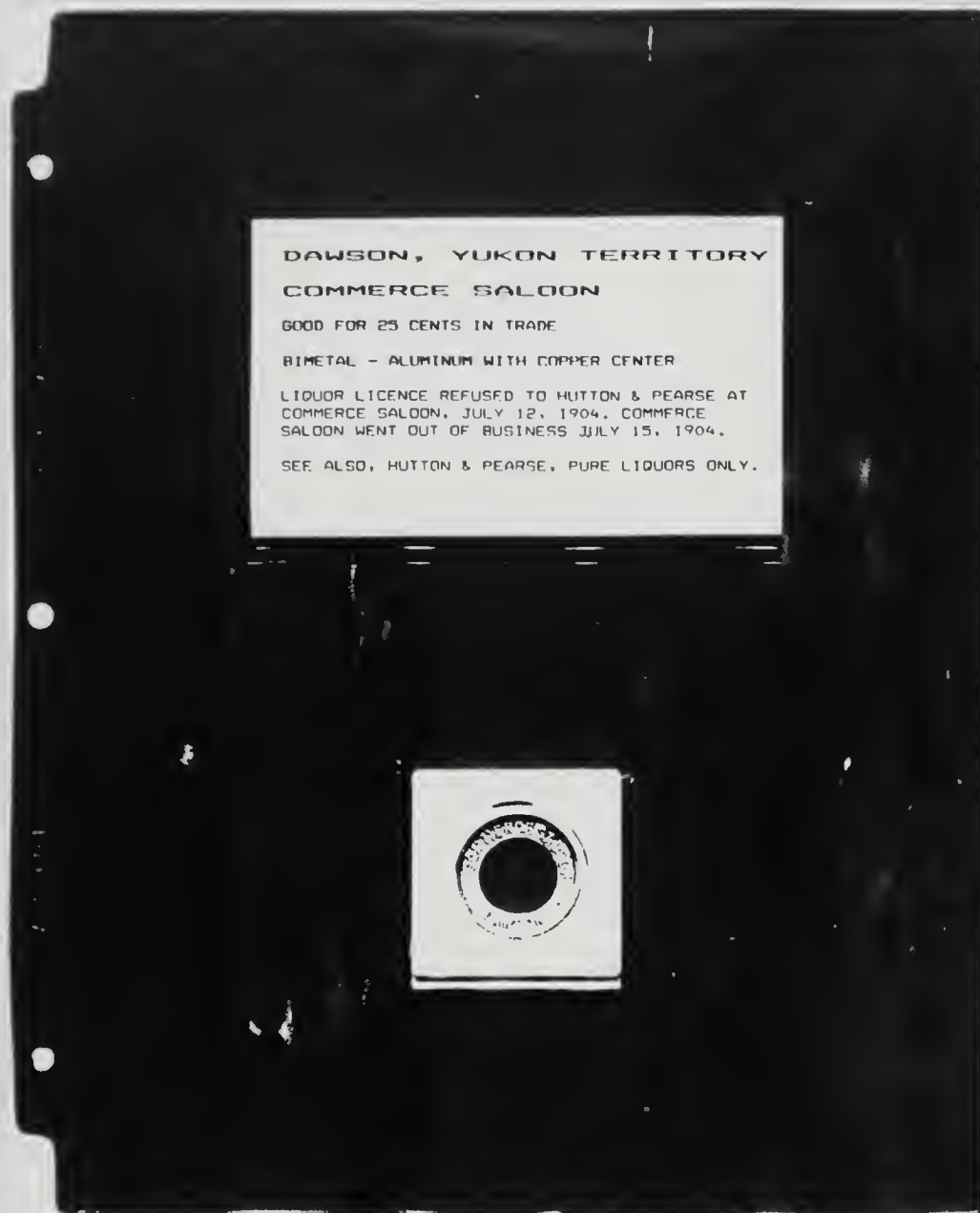


WHITEHORSE: Rotary International, \$1, \$2 and \$5 tokens. All plastic, 39mm. Black on orange, white on blue and red on blue respectively (submitted by Brian Denman).



# TOKEN AND MEDAL COLLECTORS'

## PORTFOLIO PAGE



DAWSON, YUKON TERRITORY  
COMMERCE SALOON

GOOD FOR 25 CENTS IN TRADE

BIMETAL - ALUMINUM WITH COPPER CENTER

LIQUOR LICENCE REFUSED TO HUTTON & PEARSE AT  
COMMERCE SALOON, JULY 12, 1904. COMMERCE  
SALOON WENT OUT OF BUSINESS JULY 15, 1904.

SEE ALSO, HUTTON & PEARSE, PURE LIQUORS ONLY.

FOR THE COLLECTOR THAT HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL WAY TO DISPLAY HIS PRIZED TOKENS AND MEDALS.

THE ARCI PORTFOLIO PAGE ALLOWS THE COLLECTOR TO DISPLAY ONE ITEM PER PAGE, WITH A 3" BY 5" POCKET THAT CAN BE USED FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION THE COLLECTOR DECIDES IS APPROPRIATE. BEING ABLE TO USE THIS EXTRA POCKET FOR INFORMATION ELIMINATES THE NEED TO WRITE ON THE 2X2.

THE PAGE FITS A STANDARD 3 RING BINDER, AND MEASURES 9 1/4 BY 11 1/2 INCHES. THE COLLECTOR MAY USE STANDARD 2X2 HOLDERS, AND THE TOKEN IS VISIBLE FROM BOTH SIDES.

TOKEN COLLECTORS MIGHT WANT TO DISPLAY PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOKEN SUCH AS THE MERCHANT'S NAME, TOWN, STATE AND YEARS IN BUSINESS COULD ALL BE INCLUDED, ALONG WITH METAL COMPOSITION AND SIZE.

IN THIS WAY, ALL THE INFORMATION THE COLLECTOR MIGHT WANT FOR DISPLAY OR RESEARCH PURPOSES IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE

THESE PAGES ARE NOT DESIGNED TO HOLD A TOKEN WITHOUT A 2X2 HOLDER. WE RECOMMEND "LEMBIT" BRAND, WHITE PLASTIC HOLDERS. THESE CONTRAST NICELY WITH THE BLACK PORTFOLIO PAGE. THIS HOLDER ELIMINATES POSSIBLE DAMAGE CAUSED BY STAPLES.

THESE PAGES ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALASKA RARE COIN INVESTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

SAMPLE	\$2.75 POSTPAID WITH LEMBIT HOLDER
1 TO 9 PAGES	\$2.35 EACH, POSTPAID
10 TO 50 PAGES	\$2.00 EACH, POSTPAID
51 OR MORE PAGES	\$1.90 EACH, POSTPAID
LEMBIT HOLDERS	40 CENTS EACH, POSTPAID WITH PAGES, SPECIFY SIZE.

### PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_\_\_ ARCI PORTFOLIO PAGES, AS PRICED ABOVE-----

\_\_\_\_\_ LEMBIT PLASTIC HOLDERS @ 40 CENTS EACH-----

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED-----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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VOLUME XI, NUMBER 5.

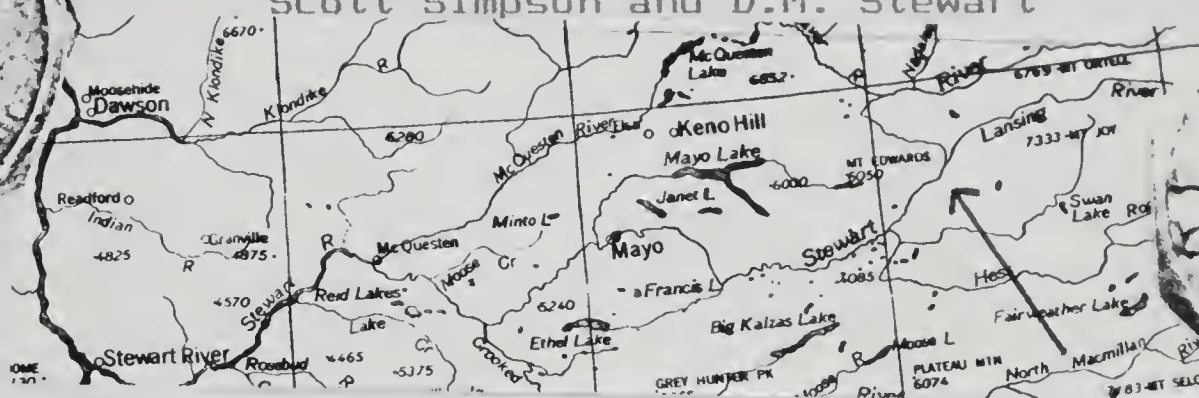
MAY, 1989.



## THE TOKENS OF JAMES MERVYN LANSING CREEK, YUKON

by

Scott Simpson and D.M. Stewart



In the early days of the Canadian North West money was scarce and the fur traders often supplemented or entirely replaced the available currency with trading tokens. Collectors are familiar with the tokens of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Northwest Co., Lamson Hubbard and to a lesser degree Taylor, Drury & Pedlar. Least known of all are those of James Mervyn of Lansing Creek.

Mr. Mervyn was born on a farm near Monkton, Ontario in 1864 or 1865. As a young man he trained in Chicago as a carpenter, and from there worked his way across the United States and Canada. When the first whisper of the Klondike strike was heard in 1897 he owned a saw mill near Walla Walla, Washington. Upon hearing the news of the big strike he sold his saw mill and headed north but the best ground was already staked. In the booming economy of the Klondike a carpenter could make big money, but Mervyn had "gold fever" and tried several stampedes out of Dawson. The failure of the Duncan Creek stampede found him broke at Mayo.

With a few dollars worth of grub and a partner named Billy Bowes, Mervyn became a trapper. Though neither had any experience, they did well and after two years in the bush came out with 500 dark marten pelts which took to Dawson to sell. The price there was so low that Mervyn took the furs to Vancouver. There he rented a store and advertised his own auction. So profitable was the adventure that he decided to become a fur trader.

Some years earlier, about 1900, Frank Braine and Percival Nash had built a trading post at the junction of the Stewart and Lansing Rivers then known as Lansing Creek. After operating this post for a number of years they sold to a man named Farrel who remained there until Mervyn bought the business about 1905. Mr. Mervyn completely rebuilt the post, and with little trading experience but a natural shrewdness he built up a large trade. To his post came Indian trappers from as far away as Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope and Fort MacPherson. The business was very successful until after the First World War when influenza wiped out half the Indian population. Others were gradually lured from the trap lines by mines and wood cutting

(continued on page 23)



## EDITORIAL

Our thanks this month to Don Stewart for permission to reprint the article on James Mervyn. These are truly rare tokens. Again, we see that a common method of disposal was the local river!

It feels good to think that I have been doing this for 10 years. But when one realizes the article on James Mervyn was first printed in 1966, it is quite humbling. The nucleus of Scott Simpson, Don Stewart and Les Hill have provided us with most of what we know about Yukon tokens. And, we understand there is something new on the horizon. Stay tuned for more details in future issues.

Thanks also go to Bryan E. Cleary for the short article on Chuck E. Cheese's tokens. Chuck E. Cheese in Fairbanks closed this past winter.

Everyone has heard of the disaster in Valdez, one of very tragic proportions. Within the next couple of issues, we will have an article on all known numismatic items related to the Pipeline. If you have any knowledge of the 12 piece gold set (similar to the 12 piece silver set), please let us hear from you. We also need rubbings and information about the 2 or 3 silver bars issued about 1973 or 1974.

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**Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist**, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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1/4 page - \$5

1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.

Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)

Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## TEN YEAR VOLUME

We have finally received and shipped the paper bound copies of our Ten Year Volume. All have been shipped via first class mail and should be in the hands of those who ordered them.

The printer delivered them shortly after the last issue of ATC was mailed, but we had to send them back. They used the wrong title page. There are different title pages for each version (paper, cloth, and leather), and they used the title page for the cloth bound versions.

The day after we returned them, there was a fire in a building attached to the printer's. All were smoke damaged to a minor degree (they smell a bit).

Estimated delivery on the leather and cloth bound versions is July 1.

The cost of printing was higher than expected. Therefore, as of June 1st, we must raise the price on all versions. The paper bound will go up to \$95, the cloth to \$145 and the leather to \$250.

The first printing was 35 copies: 25 paper, 5 leather and 5 cloth (or fabricoid). Only 1 leather bound and 2 cloth are still available. We may in the future be able to use some that were originally paper bound for the better editions (up to 10 leather and 25 cloth), with the appropriate title pages, of course. But, we will not print any more until all have sold. This could result in a very limited edition!

Thanks very much for your patience. We hope that you feel the product was worth the wait.

-----



**SEPTEMBER 2&3, 1989**

**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

Show Information:

George Hosek  
7411 Idledale Ln  
Omaha, NE 68112  
(402) 455-1905

Location:

Ramada Inn Airport  
Abbott Drive & Locust  
Omaha, NE 68110

Rooms:

1 (800) 272-6232  
1 (402) 342-5100

**BUY-SELL-TRADE TOKENS-MEDALS-MORE**



## JAMES MERVYN, cont.

and logging companies were then springing up. With the post finally becoming a losing proposition, Mervyn moved to Mayo where he bought the largest hotel and store in town. As there were banking facilities in Mayo he advertised his tokens for redemption in 1938 and when they were redeemed threw them in the river. A few were not turned in to be redeemed and so the collector who is fortunate enough to have one in his collection has a prized item. The Mervyn tokens are known in three different denominations, with the inscriptions being the same in all cases. All tokens are octagonal.

\$1.00 In Trade, 35mm, aluminum  
\$10.00 In Trade, 30mm, brass  
\$20.00 In Trade, 35mm, brass

Mervyn operated his store and "Chateau Mayo" until 1948 when, his health failing, he sold out to the Northern Commercial Co. He then returned to Ontario in 1954 and remained there till his death in 1957.

These, briefly, are the highlights in the career of another of the veterans of the "Trail of 98", whose pioneer spirit led them to settle in the Yukon and contribute the greater part of his life to the development of the territory.

The authors would like to thank Mr. J.E. Wood for the considerable assistance he has given, without which much of Mr. Mervyn's past would have been untold.

Ed. Note: The above article first appeared in the Transactions of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society in April 1966, and also in the Canadian Numismatic Journal, November 1973.

## A.N.A. CONVENTION IN SEATTLE

The 1990 American Numismatic Association convention will be held in Seattle. Is there any interest in a get together of Alaskan and Yukon token collectors? We will be there, how about you?

If you have any ideas, please write. We will act as a clearing house.

## SITKINAK, AK- SOLLY'S?



Sitkinak is an island just south of Kodiak Island. There was at one time a Loran Station on the dome. It was thought that these poker chip tokens might be related in some way to that station. A person in Kodiak that worked at the site has no recollections of them. There is no evidence concerning the possible meaning of the letters "J.B."

Current inquiries by a collector in Kodiak indicates that these were made by Sol Urie of Solly's fame. Mr. Urie made so many tokens, it is entirely possible that he was responsible for these pieces, and they are just a fabrication.

They are found in four colors; bluish green, yellow red and blue, all with gold printing.



And while we are on the subject of Sol Urie and his Solly's tokens, to above is one that we hadn't seen before. It is gold on blue plastic, with a loop for a key chain.

Fortunately, our attitudes about alcohol abuse are changing, but not fast enough to prevent the fouling of Alaska's waters. As this is being written, oil is approaching Seward and Kodiak.

"Drunk driving is breaking Alaska's heart" on bumper sticker is not new, but putting it on a T-shirt with an oil tanker is.



# CHUCK E. CHEESE'S PIZZA TIME THEATER

Chuck E. Cheese's Pizza Time Theater in Anchorage recently started running newspaper advertisements that offer participants free game tokens.

One ad "Honors Good Grades" by awarding tokens to students for report card grades. For each "A", a student would receive three tokens, two for each "B" and 28 tokens for straight "A"s in kindergarten through college. All pre-school and kindergartens receive 10 tokens per report card.

The other ad offers "20 free tokens for taxes." A six step "1988 Chuck E. Cheese's Childs Income Tax Return" is provided and after a food purchase each completed return receives 20 tokens.

Chuck E. Cheese's is a family fun entertainment center and the token offers are their way of saying "Come Share the Fun!"



## 20 FREE TOKENS FOR TAXES

1988 Department of Pizza Time Theatre  
FORM P.T.T. Chuck E. Cheese's Childs Income Tax Return

<b>Step 1</b> Name and Address Print or type	Your first name and initial _____ Last name _____	
	Present home address _____	
	City, State, and ZIP Code _____	
	Age _____ Birthday _____ Phone _____	
<b>Step 2</b> Filing status	1. Do you want to join Chuck E.'s Birthday Club?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	2. Do you want to join Chuck E.'s Fan Club?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 3</b> Family status	3. Check age group <input type="checkbox"/> under 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12	
	4. Do you have brothers?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	5. Do you have sisters?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	6. Your mother's name	_____
	7. Your father's name	_____
<b>Step 4</b> Questions	8. What is your favorite food at Chuck E. Cheese?	
	9. What is your favorite game at Chuck E. Cheese?	
	10. What new game would you like to see at Chuck E. Cheese?	
<b>Step 5</b> Rules	11. Child must be 12 years old or under	
	12. Fill out form P.T.T. and return to Chuck E. Cheese's	
	13. Your Return is due by midnight April 29, 1989	
	14. Your form P.T.T. must be completely filled out. One per person, no copies accepted; not to be used with any other coupon token offer or discount package.	
	15. Each complete return receives 20 FREE TOKENS	
<b>Step 6</b> Sign your return	I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the return is correct and complete.	
	Your signature _____	



Offer not valid with any other token offer, coupon or discount package.  
One coupon per person. FOOD PURCHASE REQUIRED.  
308 E. Northern Lights. 274-9528.

T

**Chuck E. Cheese's**  
Pizza Time Theatre

## CHUCK E. CHEESE'S HONORS GOOD GRADES

Bring your report card to Chuck E. Cheese's and receive free game tokens for your grades!

**KINDERGARTEN THROUGH COLLEGE**  
**28 TOKENS FOR STRAIGHT "A"'S**  
OR  
**3 TOKENS FOR EACH "A"**  
AND  
**2 TOKENS FOR EACH "B"**  
(no more than 5 subjects per report card will be honored)

**ALL PRE-SCHOOL AND  
KINDERGARTENERS**  
**10 GAME TOKENS**  
PER REPORT CARD



### CHUCK E.'S HONOR ROLL RULES

1. We will honor grades which are equivalent to "A"'s or "B"'s.
2. Equivalents must be posted on the report card or written verification from teacher presented.  
"A"'s = "O"'s or 90 to 100%  
"B"'s = "S plus" or 80 to 89%
3. Copies of report card accepted from parents only.
4. Only most recent quarter awarded tokens.



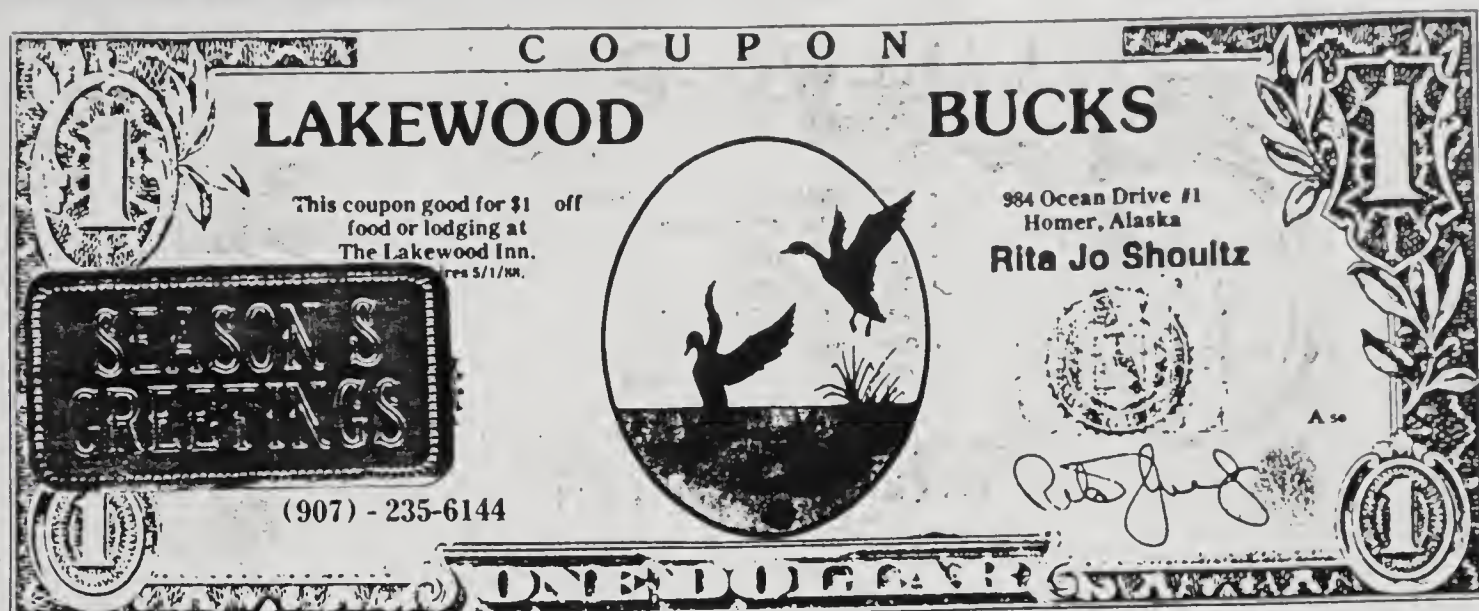
Offer not valid with any other token offer, coupon or discount package.  
308 E. Northern Lights. 274-9528.

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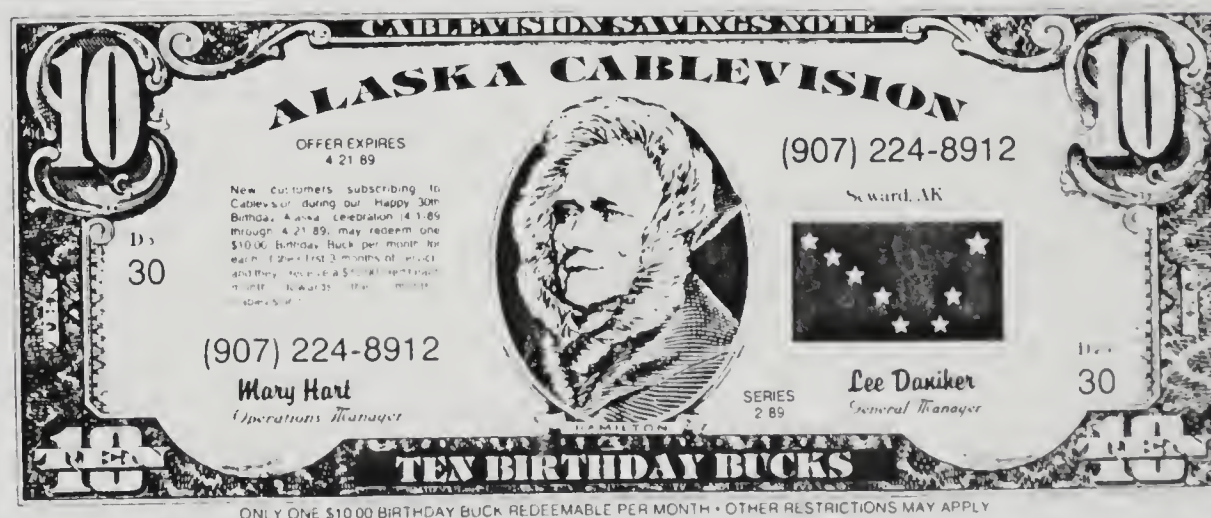


- Bryan E. Cleary

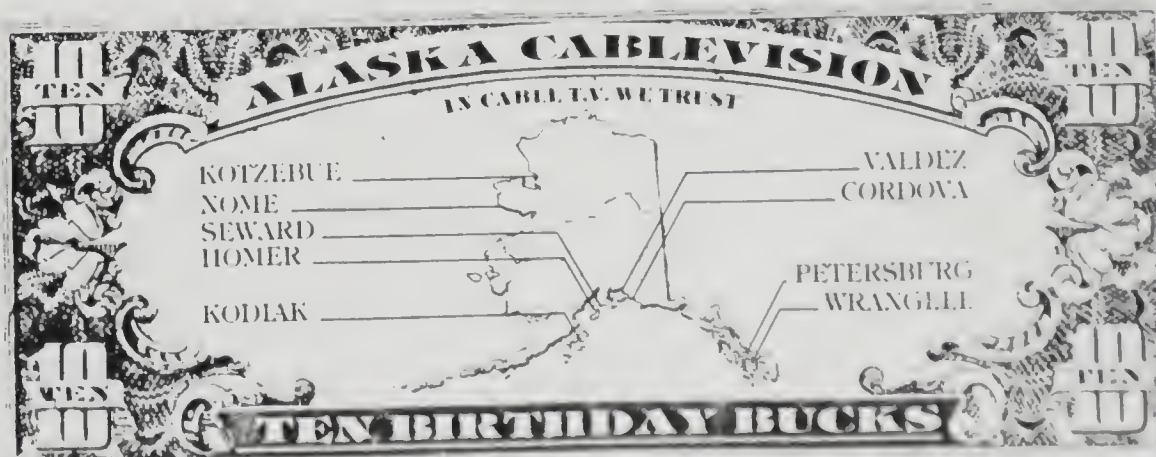




HOMER: Lakewood Bucks, good for \$1. Yellow with brown lettering, Season's Greetings sticker is gold. Illustration reduced, actual size is 217mm by 90mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ALASKA CABLEVISION: \$10 Redeemable by new subscribers for three months. Front is black on white, with the flag blue on white. Back is green on white. Illustration reduced, actual size is 255mm by 108mm. Alaska Cablevision serves Kotzebue, Nome, Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Valdez, Cordova, Petersburg and Wrangell (submitted by Lee Poleske).





**AUCTION:** TO BE HELD AT 7:30, MAY 19TH IN FAIRBANKS. These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please write. Send bids to A.R.C.I., P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, AK 99707

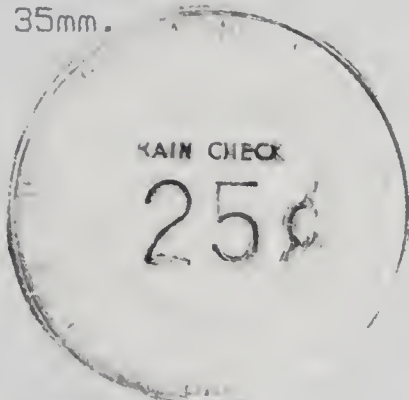
- 194 **Alaska Festival of Music, 1960 set of 3 medals:** sterling, bronze and bronze with loop. This attractive medal features hands conducting over the mountains on the obverse and the state seal of Alaska on the reverse. The rendition of the State Seal, in our opinion, is the most attractive found on any medal. The silver medal in this set is exceptionally scarce. This is only the second we have handled in fourteen years. 100.00+
- 195 **Alaska Purchase Centennial, 1967, set of 3 medals:** sterling, bronze and brass. Obverse has a bear on the map of Alaska, reverse has a totem pole and the legend "The Greatest Purchase Ever Made". The brass and bronze medals are fairly common, but the sterling medal is quite scarce. This is a matched numbered set. 50.00+
- 196 **Alaskan Command 25th Anniversary, 1972, set of 2 medals:** sterling and nickel-silver. Only the sterling is numbered. This is another modern, but scarce item. 30.00
- 197 **Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Medals,** silver and bronze or brass sets, all matched numbers, from 1971 to 1985. A total of 15 sets. Also included are the following Fur Rendezvous medals: (2) 1967, brass; 1970, bronze; 1971, brass and bronze; (the rest are brass), 1972, (2) 1975, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1981 and 1983. Quite popular and in demand. A total of 15 sets and 13 single medals. 525.00
- 198 **Anchorage Glacier Pilots Medals.** National Champions medals for 1969 and 1971 struck in sterling, with a National Runner-up for 1970 struck in bronze. Attractive set in Capital Plastics type holder. 45.00
- 199 **Eskimo Olympics, 1965, 1966 and 1967.** Set of three matched numbered, two medal sets. Very attractive medals struck by Metal Arts Co., Rochester, NY. 60.00
- 200 **Fairbanks Coin Club Medal Sets.** All sets consist of a silver and bronze medal: Bob Bartlett (1972), Austin E. Lathrop 1973, Noel Wien 1975 (very scarce and popular), Bob Reeve 1976, Charles and Anna Creamer 1977, Leonhard Seppala 1978, Andrew Nerland 1979 and James Wickersham 1980. All are matched numbers except the Reeve bronze, which is un-numbered. A total of 8 silver and 8 bronze medals. 160.00
- 201 **Iditarod Silver Medal, 1978.** The medal is uniface, 35mm, cast in sterling silver and fairly crude with all detail being incuse. I remember seeing these at the Tanana Valley Fair in 1978. This was a very limited issue and this piece is the first we have handled. We are quite sure that many Iditarod fans are unaware of this piece. There should be spirited bidding on this, with a large number of mail bids. 100.00+
- 202 **Nenana Valley Chamber of Commerce, 1972 Souvenir Dollar** struck in sterling silver. The communities of Nenana, Healy and Clear are represented on this scarce medal. We believe only 100 of these were struck, and this is a very low numbered specimen. 50.00+
- 203 **The Discovery of Gold.** This medal contains over one ounce of pure silver, with actual gold in the miners pan. Reverse depicts a gold dredge. In holder of issue. 25.00
- 204 **Trans-Alaska Pipeline Medal Set.** These were the first medals to commemorate the project. The obverse depicts the North Slope and Prudhoe Bay, while the reverse depicts Valdez. There are 4 medals in this set (sterling, bronze, brass and "nickel silver"), all serial numbered, and in a Capital Plastics type case. We understand that only 100 sets were issued. 125.00
- 205 **Trans-Alaska Pipeline "MULE" medal, 1976-M.** This is medal number six from the twelve piece set. This medal is the result of the pairing of the obverse die from medal number six with the reverse die of medal number five. An interesting and scarce item. 50.00



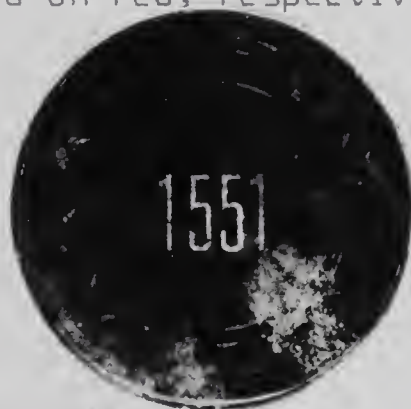
# FOR THE RECORD



CAPE ROMANZOF: NCO Club, \$1 in trade. Brass, 35mm.



(FAIRBANKS): Eagles #1037, Rain Checks for 25 cents and 50 cents. Plastic poker chip style, 39mm. Gold on yellow and gold on red, respectively.



(FAIRBANKS): Elks Club #1551, poker chip type token with no value. Obverse is elk's head, reverse is 1551. Gold on red and gold on blue, 40mm.



KING SALMON: NCO Club, \$1 in Mdse. Brass, 34mm.



KODIAK: B.P.O.E. 1772 (Elks Club). Set of 5 poker chip type tokens, no denominations. All gold lettering, on red, bluish green, maroon, yellow and blue. Bifacial (same design on both sides).



NOME: The Music Store, Leo and Erna Rasmussen, One wooden nickel 5¢. Black on wood.



NORTHEAST CAPE: 712th NCO Open Mess, \$1 in Trade. Blue aluminum, 29mm.



ANCHORAGE: Jewel Lake Bowl, no cash value, video token. Brass, 23mm.

## YUKON TOKEN PRICES REALIZED

B&M, Dawson	65.00
Dewey & Jensen, Dawson	156.25
Davies & Frey, Dawson	125.00
Hutton & Pearce, Dawson	70.00
McHenry & Drake, Dawson	398.00
Monte Carlo, Dawson	350.00
Alguire, Whitehorse	27.25
Lamson & Hubbard, NWT general	100.00
Hyland & Belfry, L.P., BC \$10	109.00
H & B, Liard Post, BC \$1	55.00
H & B, Liard Post, BC 50 cents	47.00



ALASKA CAFE, RESTAURANT AND  
BILLIARD SALONby  
Jørgen Sønd

Georg Hans Olsen was born February 27th, 1862 in Copenhagen. As a cook and later restaurant keeper he sailed with different ships from 1878 until 1892. He became a hotel owner in the north of Jutland until 1898. In 1898-99, he had two restaurants in Odense. He must at that time had known some people in Horsens, because a goldsmith in Horsens, Rasmus Jensen in these years made some very nice waiter's tokens for six restaurants, four of which were in Horsens. Tokens were also made with the name Georg Olsen. One of the Horsens restaurant keepers, N.H. Nielsen bought one of the restaurant in the People's Theater. Georg Olsen went to Copenhagen and opened his "Alaska". He got official permission on September 27, 1900. Starting in 1901, he also had a restaurant at the trotting-course.

295

## „Alaska“

## Café, Restaurant &amp; Billardsalon,

Telefon 5550 Kjøbmagergade 54 Telefon 5550

anbefaler sine hyggelige Restaurations- og Selskabslokaler passende til Familiefester og Foreninger, til billige Priser.

Tillige tillader jeg mig at anbefale min Restauration paa Traverbanen, hvor Bestilling paa større og mindre Selskaber modtages. — Traverbanen: Telefon Ordrup 325.

Ærbødigt Georg Olsen.



"recommend his comfortable restaurant- and banquet rooms for family celebrations and societies at favorable prices. Further, I will permit myself to recommend my restaurant on the trotting-course, where reservations for big and small celebrations will be received: Telephone Ordrup 325. Sincerely, Georg Olsen." (1902 advertisement).

There is a token in the lawyer Ole Andersen collection of World Tokens with "ALASKA" stamped into it. This token was manufactured by L. Chr. Lauer of Nurnberg, Germany. Georg Olsen obtained his tokens from the L. Chr. Lauer agency, N. Hansen & Co., at Kjøbmagergade 44, just a few steps from his restaurant.

(continued on page 31)



## EDITORIAL

Our thanks this month to our Scandinavian correspondent, Jørgen Sømød, for his article on the "Alaska" restaurant token from Denmark. It would be interesting to know why he chose that name!

There is an assortment of "offerings" on the last page. Hope that you can find something of interest. Orders received by June 28 will be mailed immediately. Those received after June 28 will be mailed shortly after July 20th.

Your editor (and order filler) and family will be on vacation for about the first three weeks in July. Dick and Jan will be gorging ourselves on Ipswich, MA fried clams, while Kenton and Rocki will be getting spoiled by two sets of grandparents. We are looking forward to the beach and food, but not the heat and humidity. Undoubtedly, Fairbanks will experience the nicest weather of the summer while we are gone. And I am under strict orders - no business while on vacation. Hm. We'll see about that.

Plans call for the next issue of ATC&PN to be mailed about the first of August. If it is a little late, maybe we will make it a joint August-September issue.

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## BOOK REVIEW

Land of the Midnight Sun; A History of the Yukon, by Ken S. Coates and William R. Morrison, 1988. Hurtig Publishers, 10560-105 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 2W7.

As to be expected, a large portion of the book deals with the gold rush to the Klondike. From a search for the gold, the gold rush, and the decline, all aspects are covered. While books whose sole subject is the gold rush go into more depth, the treatment here is adequate for a book of this scope.

A chapter on the fur trade demonstrates how the traders really opened the Yukon to the outside, and made it possible for future gold seekers to search for the precious metal.

The most interesting chapter for me had to be the one on Herschel Island. Anyone familiar with the geography of the Yukon knows that it is there. What is amazing is the amount of commercial activity conducted on the island! The community on Herschel Island even progressed to the point where the senior officers of the whaling crews brought their families north with them, and it was the busiest whaling center in the Western Arctic.

As many of our long time readers know, your editor possesses the only known token of John Zaccarelli. Mr. Zaccarelli was one of many Dawsonites to perish in the wreck of the Princess Sophia. The one quote that will stay with me the longest concerns the Princess Sophia: "Close to 10 per cent of the Territory's white population had perished in less than half an hour."

(continued on page 32)



**SEPTEMBER 2&3, 1989**  
**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

#### Show Information:

George Hosek  
7411 Idledale Ln  
Omaha, NE 68112  
(402) 455-1905

#### Location:

Ramada Inn Airport  
Abbott Drive & Locust  
Omaha, NE 68110

#### Rooms:

1 (800) 272-6232  
1 (402) 342-5100

**BUY-SELL-TRADE TOKENS-MEDALS-MORE**



## "ALASKA", cont.

L. Chr. Lauer tokens with legends in Danish and with names stamped into them are rare. In most cases, we only have knowledge of a few denominations. Since only a 5 øre token from "Alaska" is known, it is likely that he used his other tokens from Odense, and the 5 øre was only a supplement.

In 1904, he closed his restaurants, and is not heard of again until 1914 when he opens a new "Alaska" restaurant, this time at Farvergade 17, Copenhagen. He then sells this restaurant in 1921, and it continues with the same name at this address until 1945. Georg Olsen bought another restaurant in 1922 and keeps it for many years.

The "ALASKA" 5 øre token can only be from the first "ALASKA", Kjøbmagergade 54, because the type of token used with 16 dots on the lower line was only produced until 1908.

Why he used the name "ALASKA" is unknown. Maybe had been to Alaska. In any case, he became an honorable member of the sea-restaurant-keepers in 1927.

Note that the token uses the French **Œ** in **VOERDI-MŒRKE**. This has never been used in Denmark, as we use the **Æ**.

## KLONDIKE TRAVEL DEAL

Air North Canada is offering a new fare. The Klondike Explorer Pass will allow its holder to travel the entire Air North system for one fare over 21 days. The airline serves Fairbanks and Juneau in Alaska, and Old Crow, Dawson City, Whitehorse and Watson Lake in the Yukon Territory. With this pass you can fly to each of the towns served by Air North Canada one time, using Whitehorse as the hub. Your initial departure date cannot be changed, but the rest of your itinerary is open. Cost of the pass is \$420US plus tax. Another package available is the Gold Poke, which departs Fairbanks on Friday for Dawson City and returns on Sunday. Perfect of two evening at Diamond Tooth Gertie, for only \$165.70. For more information, call 1-800-764-0407.

## J.B. — SITKINAK: FEEDBACK

Re the Sitkinak "tokens." I got a set of them in September 1969 from Mr. Urie. He told me that J.B. was Jan Beukers and these pieces were used in 1952. The values were \$1 yellow, \$5 blue, \$10 turquoise, and \$20 red.

There was a Herman Beukers listed at 1325 Ismailor in Kodiak in the early 1980's but not at present. I don't have phone books for the 1950's at home, but the Dun and Bradstreets show nothing in the 1950's under this name. But then, gambling establishments weren't always listed.

Perhaps these additional clues will enable someone up there to uncover the full story.

I left them out of my book because they were gambling chips with no indication of good for value or circulation away from the gaming table.

The Urie connection is probably valid but I don't think they are fantasies.

-Ron Benice

## MORE ON ZAPEL'S

From the Alaska Sportsman, Sept. 1964.

"The first white child born in Fairbanks, Mrs. Katherine Friss Zapel, returned for a brief visit late last spring. She was born Sept. 15, 1905, in the old Vienna Bakery Building on Second St., which was owned by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Friss. She attended school in Fairbanks and married Ed Zapel, an employee of the Alaska Communications System in the 1920's. They sold out the family bakery and moved south in 1941. Her husband died 10 years ago, and for the past year, Mrs. Zapel has made her home at Milton-Freewater, Ore. She says that while she was the first white child born in the Fairbanks camp, another baby beat her by two days as far as the Fairbanks area is concerned. "Iris Hinkley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hinkley, who owned a dairy here, was born Sept. 13, 1905 - but in Graehl".

(submitted by Kurtis Hawk)



FOR THE RECORD



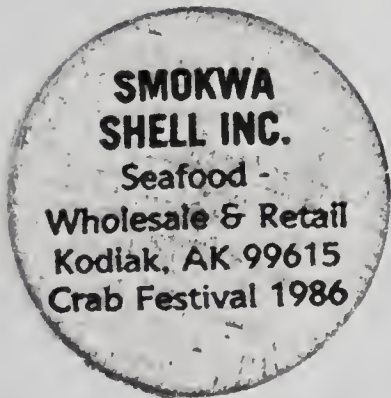
ANCHORAGE: The Cabin Tavern, One Premium. Black on white plastic, 38mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



FAIRBANKS: Uncle's Pizza Parlor, 25 cents in trade. Black on wood.



KENAI: Eadie's Frontier Club, Good Like Coin, 1988. Brass, 32mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



KODIAK: Smokwa Shell Inc., Crab Festival 1986. Black on wood (submitted by Dick Powell).

BOOK REVIEW, cont.

Land of the Midnight Sun does an excellent job of giving the reader an overview of the history of the Yukon without bogging down in minute details. It emphasizes the economic aspects without neglecting other factors that make the Territory unique.



UNALASKA: Elbow Room, Good for one drink or one bottle beer. Gold on red and gold on black plastic, respectively. Diameter is 42mm (submitted by Dick Powell).



VALDEZ: Valdez, Alaska. Uniface, blue on wood. Good for a free gift when turned in to the Valdez Visitors Center (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).



ALASKA, GENERAL: Alaska, The Last Frontier, State Seal. Silver colored cast metal, 37mm.

PRICE REALIZED: Seward, B-6a, Oval Native copper; \$156.11

As mentioned in the editorial, there will be no issue in July. The next issue of ATC&PN should be in the mail sometime around the first of August.



# THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS CORDOVA TOKENS



The official State of Alaska silver bullion medallion is finally available!

The obverse of the silver medal was designed by Doug Lindstrand, a free lance artist from Anchorage. It features a polar bear looking out to sea, with the moon and northern lights in the background.

The reverse of the medal carries the legislatively mandate state seal.

The medals are available in two qualities but we cannot see any difference between the regular strikes and the proofs. We are offering only the regular strikes which have a fairly nice proof-like finish.

Please use the order blank below.

We were fortunate to purchase the following Cordova tokens recently. The number in () indicates how many are available. We recommend a phone call to reserve these.

Oscar Breedman	6 1/4¢	B-4a	(1)	125.00
The Club, C & M	25¢	B-9a	(1)	45.00
Horseshoe Liquor Co.,	6 1/4¢			
		B-18a	(2)	100.00
Old Crow,	6 1/4¢	B-28a	(1)	90.00
Southern Club,	6 1/4¢	B-32a	(3)	65.00

Use the order blank below, or call!

## 10 YEAR VOLUME UPDATE

As stated in the last issue, the paper bound versions are now available. Due to printing costs we are going to raise the cover price. We want to give you one last chance at \$80, so orders received by June 28 will be honored at the old price. Orders received after June 28 must be for the new price of \$100.

Only 25 paper bound versions have been printed, and the way sales are going, that is probably going to be all. Quite a limited edition!

## PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING:

_____ OFFICIAL STATE OF ALASKA ONE OUNCE SILVER BULLION MEDALLION @ \$9.75	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
POSTAGE AND HANDLING PER ORDER	2.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

NAME _____	ADDRESS _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____





### TIERRA DEL FUEGO SHEEP RANCH TOKENS

by

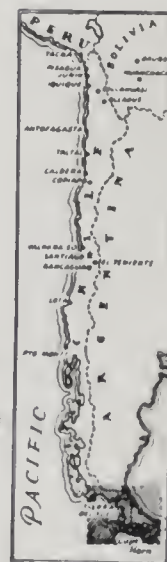
Edwin C. Leslie

(reprinted with permission of the  
Token and Medal Society  
and the author.)



Ferdinand Magellan triumphantly sailed his fleet of four little caravels (the fifth had disappeared earlier never to be heard from again) through the mouth of the straits that were later to perpetuate his name, marvelling at the many fires along the cliffs to the south (Indian camp and signal fires). He christened the land Tierra del Fuego (Fireland), a name that has survived to this day.

After a hazardous two and a half days of bucking the currents and angry winds of the straits, three of the little vessels (the fourth had given up and headed back for Spain) burst out into the wide Pacific. Magellan realized he had truly discovered a channel linking the great seas. On he sailed across the wide Pacific to the Philippines, where he lost more of his vessels and finally his own life in a battle with natives. Only one vessel carrying eighteen tired souls completed the voyage around the world by returning safely to home port in Spain.



The Spaniards quickly realized the importance of Magellan's discovery and attempted to form a settlement in the straits to control the sea lane to their gold and silver sources in Peru. Their attempt at colonization was futile because the Dutch sailed farther down the coast and rounded Cape Horn in open water, a course less hazardous than maneuvering through the straits with its treacherous winds, currents, forbidding cliffs and rocks. It was not until the advent of the steamship that the straits once again became a factor in world commerce.

(Continued on page 35)



## EDITORIAL

It is back to the old grind after three weeks off this summer. My two months "off" from the newsletter has also been taken, so you may look forward (with varying degrees of enthusiasm, I am sure) to receiving this publication each of the remaining months of this year.

Our feature article this month is about 18 years old. I had kept this in mind for several years, and finally got around to obtaining permission to use it. This is the article that stirred my interest in tokens of the far south. Tierra del Fuego may have the farthest south tokens presently known. One other locality may deserve this honor, but I haven't compared the latitudes yet! We will present information on these other tokens later this year or early next year.

We are also planning an article on Spitzbergen. This article and those mentioned above will help to broaden the scope of this publication.

Your editor's prime interests currently are Yukon and \*\*\*\*\* (the mystery article mentioned above will fill you in!). I realize that most are interested in Alaska, all Alaska, and nothing but Alaska. Well, it is up to the readers to provide information along those lines. We have feelers out on two articles; one on Wrangell and another on a Sitka item. If you think you can help, please drop us a line, as we have hit a dead end on these.

That is all for this month. Hope you enjoy the article on Tierra del Fuego as much as I did when I first read it many years ago. Special thanks to TAMS and to the author, Edwin C. Leslie for granting permission to us to reprint it.

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

Editor - Dick Hanson

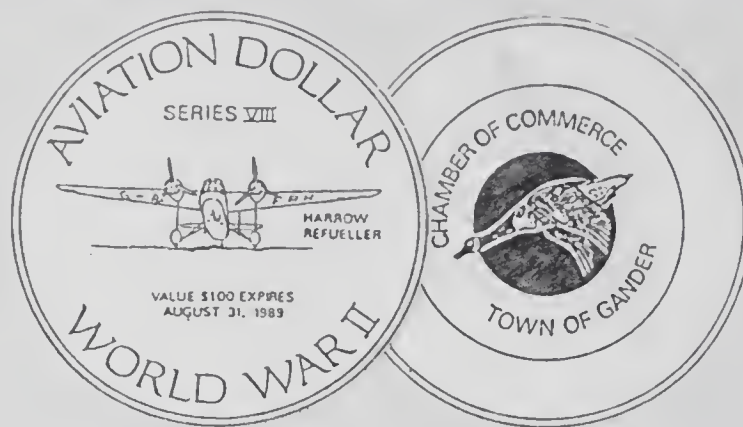
Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth

Local Peninsula Correspondent - Kurtis Hawk

Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

Scandinavian Corr. - Torgren Symod

## 1989 GANDER, NFLD. AVIATION TRADE DOLLAR



A Handley-Page inflight refueler plane of World War II vintage is featured on the obverse side of the 1989 Aviation Dollar just released by the Gander and Area Chamber of Commerce, Gander, Newfoundland.

This is the eighth in their series of annual aviation dollars depicting military aircraft used during World War II that frequently used Gander Airport.

Local Gander artist Greg Seaward designed the trade dollar. Sherritt Mint of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta struck 10,000 specimens on 33mm nickel bonded steel blanks.

The piece is available at \$1.50 postpaid from Gander & Area Chamber of Commerce, 109 Trans Canada Highway, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada, A1V 1P6. Remaining back issues are available postpaid as follows: 1983, \$4.00; 1984, \$4.00; 1985, \$3.50; 1987, \$2.50; 1988, \$2.00.

At the onset of World War II, Imperial Airways was flying the hydroplanes "Cabot" and "Caribou" between Botwood and Foynes and used inflight refuelling to increase payloads. Under this system, a partially fuelled flying boat would leave Botwood with more cargo than it could have lifted with full fuel tanks. Once airborne, it would rendezvous with a refueler from Gander and be fully fueled in mid-air before winging out over the Atlantic.

-Jerry Remick

### Subscription Rates:

US & Canada	\$10 per year
Elsewhere	\$20 per year

### Collector's Advertising Rates:

1 page - \$15	1/2 page - \$8
1/4 page - \$5	

1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.

Classified ads: 50 c/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.



## TIERRA DEL FUEGO, cont.

Punta Arenas, later named Magellanes, rose from the ashes of an original convict settlement, and by 1880 developed into a small town composed of a church, thirty or forty houses, a fort and another prison. The town became a coaling station for steamers a rough playground for their cosmopolitan crews, as well as a supply depot for whalers and sealers. Attracted by the flurry of excitement on its southern shores, Argentina established a fort and convict settlement in 1884 at Ushuaia. This became known as the "southernmost town in the world". After a number of border disputes between Chile and Argentina, by common consent, the frontiers were adjudicated by the King of England, Edward VII.

Gold was discovered on the island of Tierra del Fuego near the present town of Porvenir and the cry was heard around the world. Prospectors swarmed the straits, and following like magnets were the evil men, robbers, swindlers and even murderers, some drawn by the hope of refuge in an unpoliced land as much as for riches. Punta Arenas grew overnight into a sloppy town of tin and wooden shacks, bars and honkytonks.

Into this conglomerate mess came an individual who stood out like a flower in a weed patch, Julius Popper, a retired captain in the Romanian army. He landed at Punta Arenas and in 1885, with a small company of men, bravely set out without hesitation on a march across the island of Tierra del Fuego to the Atlantic Ocean, a trip across Ona Indian land from which no white man had ever returned. The little band unerringly (Popper must have in some way had some indication of his goal) arrived at San Sebastian bay on the Atlantic, and immediately started scooping up gold-laden sand along the beach at the cliff's edge. He called his settlement there El Paramo and later he mined at five other nearby sites. His men were uniformed and trained as soldiers as well as miners, and wisely so, as they were constantly called upon to defend their rights from roving bands of envious prospectors and outlaws. Popper's venture was one of the few successful gold mining operations in Tierra del Fuego.

The influence of this ambitious little man was so great that he became known as the "Uncrowned King" of the island. He even minted his own "coins" of purest gold, in one, three and five gram denominations, and he issued his own postage stamps, both now collectors' items. His arch enemy was the governor of Ushuaia who conspired with others and eventually conquered all of Popper's mines. Popper returned to Buenos Aires to defend his rights through political channels, but one day he was found dead in his hotel room, apparently poisoned by an assassin. By now, however, it was clearly evident that, despite Popper's success, gold was not in abundance in the land, and man would have to look elsewhere for find reasons for staying on this bleak, wind-swept, frigid island.

In the 1870's, an Englishman brought in a few sheep from the Falkland Islands. They seemed to thrive on the long, coarse grass of the pampas and the wintry weather made the wool grow long and thick. Once again the cry of "gold" was heard far away in Europe and even as far as Australia, only this time the "gold" was "sheep". Scottish and English sheepherders and ranchers came with their dogs and the big land grab began. There was no law, so possession seemed to assure ownership. A far-sighted, enterprising Portuguese named Nogueira somehow persuaded the Chilean government in 1890 to lease him an amazing tract of one million hectares (equivalent to nearly two and a half million acres) of land on Tierra del Fuego for the purpose of raising sheep. Companies were formed and fortunes quickly made. Estancias (sheep ranches) began to spread across Tierra del Fuego like a rising tide.

At first the Ona and Yahgan Indians welcomed the introduction of an easy supply of available food. Sheep were easier to overtake and kill than the elusive and now scarce guanaco. The ranchers, however, resented the Indians killing their sheep and quickly retaliated. A butchered sheep meant an immediate sortie by the ranchers against the Indians, any Indians, and immediate death to any unfortunate enough to cross their

(Continued on page 38)



path, whether or not they were the ones involved in the killing of the sheep. The ranchers looked on Indians the same way they looked on foxes or any predators that were a threat to their precious flocks. The small nomadic groups of Onas continued to find the sheep a convenient source of food. As a result, some sheep farms placed a bounty on Indians, and this brought in professional bounty hunters, and the slaughter of Indians went on. At one time, it is estimated that there were 7000 to 9000 pure blooded Indians on Tierra del Fuego. Today, there are less than a hundred and it is probably just a matter of time when there will be none.

All of the ranchers were not a ruthless as the ones previously mentioned. Tom Bridges was one of the pioneers in Tierra del Fuego. He originated the missionary settlement at Ushuaia, and through his kindness and trust, earned the confidence of the Indians. He even prepared a dictionary of the Yaghan language, consisting of about 35,000 words. Unfortunately, it seems to have been a rather futile expenditure of labor, as the Yaghans are now practically extinct. Tom Bridges also established a ranch at Harborton and his son, Lucas, founded a large ranch on the Atlantic coast and named it "La Viamonte". On both estancias only native labor was employed and wages were commensurate with white man's. The Catholic Silesian Mission had established a station on Dawson Island and some ranchers, instead of killing Indians, sent them to the confinement of the mission. The motives were unquestionably humanitarian, however the Ona Indians, strong and splendid in their primitive life, had no defense against the newly imported diseases of civilization, and they succumbed in groves from measles, pneumonia and influenza. Confinement in the missions may have saved souls but it lost lives. It came to a point where being sent to a mission was sentence of death for the Indian.

Wire fences crapt across the land and enclosed vast pastures. A normal estancia had 50,000 to 70,000 sheep, but one had as many as 200,000.

The largest of the sheep raising

companies was the Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego, organized in 1893. The nucleus of the Society was a portion of the Noguera lease. In 1894 they gathered supplies at Punta Arenas, contracted for a boat and prepared an expedition to cross the straits and build an estancia in Tierra del Fuego. They chose a site at Caleta Josefina, some miles east of Porvenir. Houses for personnel were constructed, sheds for shearing sheep, bath troughs for ridding the sheep of ticks and scab, a store and numerous other building and shelters necessary to the life of an estancia. A year later, another estancia, San Sebastian, was established close to the Argentine border. At every opportunity the Society acquired more land and more sheep. As land became scarce, they looked north of the straits and swallowed more property, this time in the Santa Cruz Department of Argentina.

As most of the good pasture in Tierra del Fuego was monopolized by the big companies, the small colonists looked elsewhere and found an ideal location far to the northwest in the Ultima Esperanza district of Chile. In 1884 the Chilean government decided to obtain revenue by leasing land to colonists, however some of the large companies had been smacking their lips of Ultima Esperanza and finally persuaded the government to sell the land outright at auction. To preserve their homesteads, the colonists formed themselves into one company, "The United Estancias of Ultima Esperanza", but even their combined capital could not compete with the vast sums available to the Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego, which ended up acquiring almost the entire district. The small ranchers had to take whatever sums the company wished to pay for their homes, buildings and fixtures. The Society continued to grow until finally it owned over three and a half million acres of pasture land, making it the largest private landholder in the entire world.

Another of the colorful sheep empires was created by a Spaniard, Don Jose Menendez, who also owned a large shipping establishment. He built two large estancias near the Atlantic Ocean on the Argentine side of the border, one north and one south

(continued on page 37)



of the Rio Grande River. The one south of the Rio Grande was called "La Primera Argentina". Its manager was an unscrupulous hard-drinking Scot, who was given the nickname, "King of the Rio Grande". The Ona Indians had given him some difficult times in the past, and so he became their sworn enemy and was one of the more ruthless of the ranchers and did his part in decimating the Indians. The Primera Argentina was later named "The Estancia Jose Menendez" in honor of the founder of the empire. North of the Rio Grande was the larger of the two estancias, "The Segunda Argentina". Management was given to one of Menendez' five sons who had been trained in sheep raising in Australia. The Segunda Argentina later was given the name "Estancia Maria Behety", being the maiden name of Menendez' wife. This estancia became the largest sheep ranch in the world, pasturing some 200,000 sheep. It also claimed the honor of owning the largest shearing shed in the world, capable of housing 7000 head of sheep. As land on the island was taken up, Menendez founded the large estancia "San Gregario" on the north side of the strait. He also set up other estancias farther north in Argentina. It is said that he built up a fortune of over thirty-five million dollars, and like other sheep kings and queens, he built his palatial home on the square of Punta Arenas. Among his gifts to the city were a very handsome theater and a statue of Ferdinand Magellan, intended as a monument to that great explorer, but in order that the name of the giver of the statue not be forgotten, the letters in the name "Don Jose Menendez" are just as large as the letters in the name "Fernando Magallenes".

The majority of the sheep workers labored only three months of the year and were out of work for the remaining nine months. In order to prevent the migrant workers from descending upon the small town of Punta Arenas and making conditions there even more intolerable, Chile enacted a law proclaiming that each estancia be obligated to offer to each migrant worker who happened their way a few days room and meals. It was seldom that an estancia was without at least one group of such unwelcomed guests.

Tokens are known from the two largest sheep raising organizations, Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego and Estancias Primera y Segunda Argentina of Jose Menendez. It is believed that the tokens were put into use shortly after the organizations of the two companies in the early 1890's, and used for only a brief period of time. That would account for the fact that similar tokens have not turned up from other of the sheep raising companies. Menendez issued a 20 centavos token fabricated from three layers of vulcanite, tan, black and tan, a 50 centavos token made of red vulcanite and a 1 peso token made from black vulcanite. Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego issued tokens in the same denominations, but in the following colors of vulcanite: 20 centavos, red; 50 centavos, red; 20 centavos, black; 50 centavos, black; and 1 Peso, black. From this it appears that there may have been issued two complete sets of three denomination tokens, one set in red and one in black vulcanite. There are two possible explanations for the issuance of two sets of tokens. First; a wish to differentiate between tokens of different estancias, and second; a lapse of time between the issuance of the red and black series of tokens.

In the barren, wind-swept lands of Tierra del Fuego, sheep still graze on the lonely pampas. But a third cry of "gold" has recently echoed around the world and this time the "gold" is "oil". Around the estancia, "Springhill", owned by Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego, oil derricks have raised their ugly heads above the landscape and spoiled the picturesque empty beauty of the pampas. The Empresa Nacional del Petroleo is presently extracting 11,000 barrels a day from Tierra del Fuego deposits, and its impressive office headquarters building in Punta Arenas now towers above the palatial former homes of the sheep "kings" and "queens".

(Originally published October, 1977, TMS Journal.)

Tokens of Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego and Primera y Segunda Argentina are illustrated on the next page.



# TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego:



20¢ (Centavos), red or black vulcanite, 26mm.



50¢ (Centavos), red or black vulcanite, 30mm.



\$1 (Peso), black vulcanite, 35mm. Red vulcanite may exist.

Estancias Primera y Segunda Argentina:



20¢ (Centavos), tan/black/tan vulcanite, 26mm.



50¢ (Centavos), red vulcanite, 31mm.



\$1 (Peso), black vulcanite, 35mm.

SOCIEDAD EXPLOTADORA  
DE TIERRA DEL FUEGO  
50th Anniversary Medals



The medals illustrated above were issued in two sizes as shown: 50mm and 37mm. Both sizes were struck in silver, copper and bronze.

The obverse features a flock of Merino sheep, while the reverse depicts sheep shearing, and an appropriate legend. The medal was designed by Rene Thenot. Mintages are unknown.

The medals were struck by the Chilean Government mint at Santiago. The obverse die was also used for a medal commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Sociedad Ganadera de Laguna Blanca in 1954.



# FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Bargain Towne, Black on wood (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).

FAIRBANKS: Gold Pan Trading Post, \$1 off any \$10.00 gift purchase. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



GOOD FOR ONE BEER



ANCHORAGE: Timeout Lounge, good for one beer. Black on yellow plastic, 29mm (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).

FAIRBANKS: The Palace Theatre & Saloon. The Music Man of Gold Rush Town, James C. Bell. Black on wood.



ATKA ISLAND: Atka Island Native Store, 1¢ in trade. Aluminum, 20mm.



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: NCO Open Mess, \$2 in trade, Valid Thru May '89. Gold aluminum, 35mm (submitted by Byran E. Cleary).

ELMENDORF A.F.B.: NCO Open Mess, \$2 in trade, (issued June, 1989). Similar to above, no expiration statement. Blue aluminum, 35mm. Photocopy would not reproduce (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary).



CIRCLE CITY: Cooper and Eaton, 25¢, maker C.A. Klinkner & Co. S.F. Brass, 21mm. Are there any other Circle Cities, other than the one in Alaska? (submitted by Alan Weinberg).



DALTON HIGHWAY: Arctic Circle Gifts, Mile 115. 50¢ off on any \$5.00 purchase. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

VALDEZ: Port of the Supertankers. Reverse is a standard Alaska die. 1 ounce pure silver.



## THE SITKA KOPECK

In the British colonies on the eastern seaboard, because of a shortage of coinage, tobacco was forced into circulation as a medium of exchange. Australia too faced an extreme deficit of coinage. Any coinage that made its way to the colonies was immediately shipped to the homeland in payment for needed goods. Spain was fortunate with the massive amount of silver available in her new world colonies. The quantities of coins minted of the silver from these mines supplied not only colonies of the Spanish realm, but when captured by privateers, supplied the needs of other colonies. These coins were often made legal tender by law and proclamation in the U.S., Australia and many of the Caribbean Islands. But, once again, these were used to purchase needed goods from the homeland. These colonies were once again left without a local medium of exchange.



"Minted" in Sitka, Alaska at the Sitkakwan Shop

### Sitka Kopeck

*During the early years of the Russian-American Company, (1816-1828) a series of leather currency was issued in place of metal money. These early "sealskin notes" or "kozhanye" are very rare and valuable. This Sitka Kopeck has been made of leather and commemorates both these early day Russian leather tokens, and Alexander Baranoff who was instrumental in the successes of the Russian-American Company in what is now Alaska.*

Copyright - Marilyn Taranoff 1970

When the Russian America Company controlled Alaska, they faced a problem prevalent in all colonies far removed from the homeland. There was a severely limited amount of coin of the realm in their part of the realm. They ameliorated the situation by introducing currency manufactured, depending on the account, from

seal skin or walrus skin.

Ms. Marilyn Taranoff of the Sitkakwan Shop in Sitka had heard of this currency earlier, but an article in the November, 1969 issue of Alaska Magazine gave her an idea for a modern souvenir. Her first plan was to duplicate them as closely as she could, but she decided on a coin format, and to use this format to honor the Russian America Company governors. This series of commemoratives started with Alexander Baranoff. Unfortunately, this is the only one of the planned series to be produced.

(continued on page 42)



## EDITORIAL

Our thanks to Ms. Marilyn Taranoff for providing the information on the "Sitka Kopeck". This is really a neat item, and we hope that one day she will see fit to continue the series.

Long time token collector Stan Robertson has been in our shop several times recently. We have him to thank for bringing the little brown jug and the Fred and Bill watchfob to our attention. In talking to a number of local collectors, they have known about the jug for a number of years, but had no idea who was responsible for it!

We are getting this in the mail early because we wanted all of you to have time to look over the Alaskan items in our upcoming floor auction and mail bid sale. There are some nice old tokens in there, but one's attention is immediately drawn to the quality of some of the native copper pieces. We expect some spirited floor bidding on these, so if you think you want them, place your bids with the knowledge that we reduce all winning mail bids to one bid above the maximum floor bid.

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Editor - Dick Hanscom  
Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
Kenai Peninsula Correspon. - Kurtis Hawk  
Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
Scandinavian Corr. - Jørgen Sørmod

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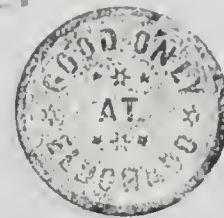
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1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.	

Classified ads: 50 ¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## MAVERICKS



Above is an interesting maverick! It was found at Olness (see the map on the front page of ATC&PN Feb.-March 1988). As you will note, Eldorado is just a hop, skip and a jump from Olness. We could find no business listed by the name "Eldorado" in the 1907 Directory of the Tanana Valley. No claim to attribute this piece is made. It is bifacial, 21mm, white metal.



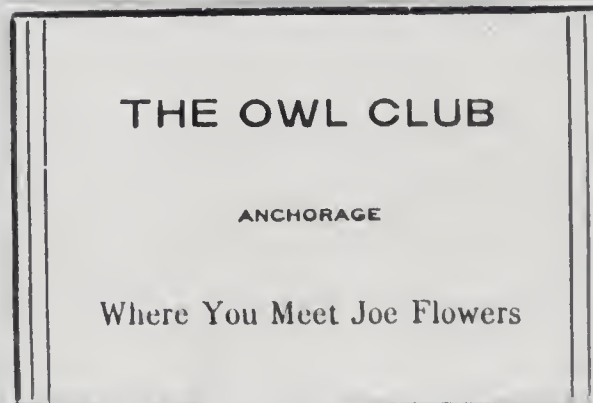
This one looked too easy to attribute. Unfortunately, neither Birch or Taylor appears in the 1901 Polk's Directory under St. Michael. Maybe for a bar in Vermont near St. Michael's College? This token is aluminum, 24.5mm.



Unfortunately, there were probably hundreds of Midway Cigar Stores. Scalloped, 28.7mm, with 12 1 2 cut-out.

(All the above submitted by Stan Robertson)

## JOE FLOWERS, THE OWL CLUB



David Bennison sent in this ad from 'The Matanuska Valley Pioneer', October 30, 1936. He asked an interesting question: "Who's Joe Flowers?" Was he the manager of The Owl Club, and then get the owl establishment.



## SITKA KOPECK, cont.

The obverse of the leather token has a two headed Russian eagle with "Russian American Capital of Alaska" across the chest, with "Souvenir Kopeck from the" above and between the heads. Each word is on a separate line. It also contains a copyright statement. The reverse bears the legend, enclosed in a wreath, "New/ Archangel/ 1804-1819 / Alexandr Baranoff/ 1970 Sitka/(c) Taranoff/ Sitkakwan/ Shop.

The tokens are made from 3 to 4 ounce carving cowhide. Two pieces of leather are laminated together with the grain side out, allowing the dies to be pressed into damp leather. After the leather has been laminated together, the circular blanks are cut using a circle cutter. The blanks are then impressed with the design, and then allowed to dry. After drying, a leather dye is applied giving a dark brown color with golden highlights. Between 500 and 1,000 were produced. These were then placed in plastic sleeves and stapled to an information card as seen on the front page.

The result is a unique Alaskan collectible honoring Alexander Baranoff and the numismatic heritage he and future Russian governors of Alaska created.

## FRAM - NORTH POLE EXPEDITION



The little medal above notes the ship Fram, commanded by Fridtjof Nansen, and the 1893 to 1896 North Polar Expedition.

Nansen deliberately sailed the Fram into the Polar ice cap to allow his ship to be entrapped. The Fram then circled the pole, but never approached it. They broke out of the ice west of Spitzbergen in 1896.

The medal is made of brass, and is 25mm in diameter. It is holed at the top. A portrait of Nansen is on the obverse, while a view of Fram trapped in ice is on the reverse.

## FRED & BILL

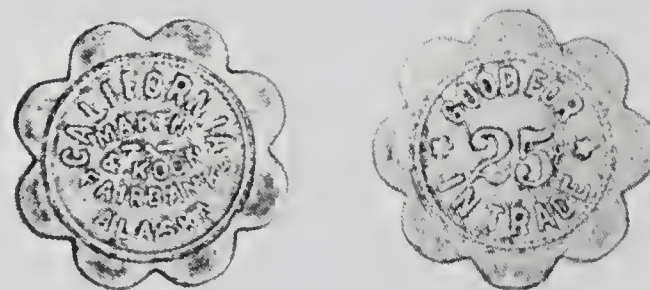


At left is a "little brown jug" with the printing "Compliments of Fred & Bill, Fairbanks, Alaska." This item was just a curiosity of unknown origin until a couple of local collectors put their heads together.

One collector has the lead watch fob (ill. below). The obverse has an Indian entering a teepee, while the back has the legend "The California, Fred and Bill, Fairbanks, Alaska". It is in pretty poor condition, as would be expected of an item made of lead after this length of time.



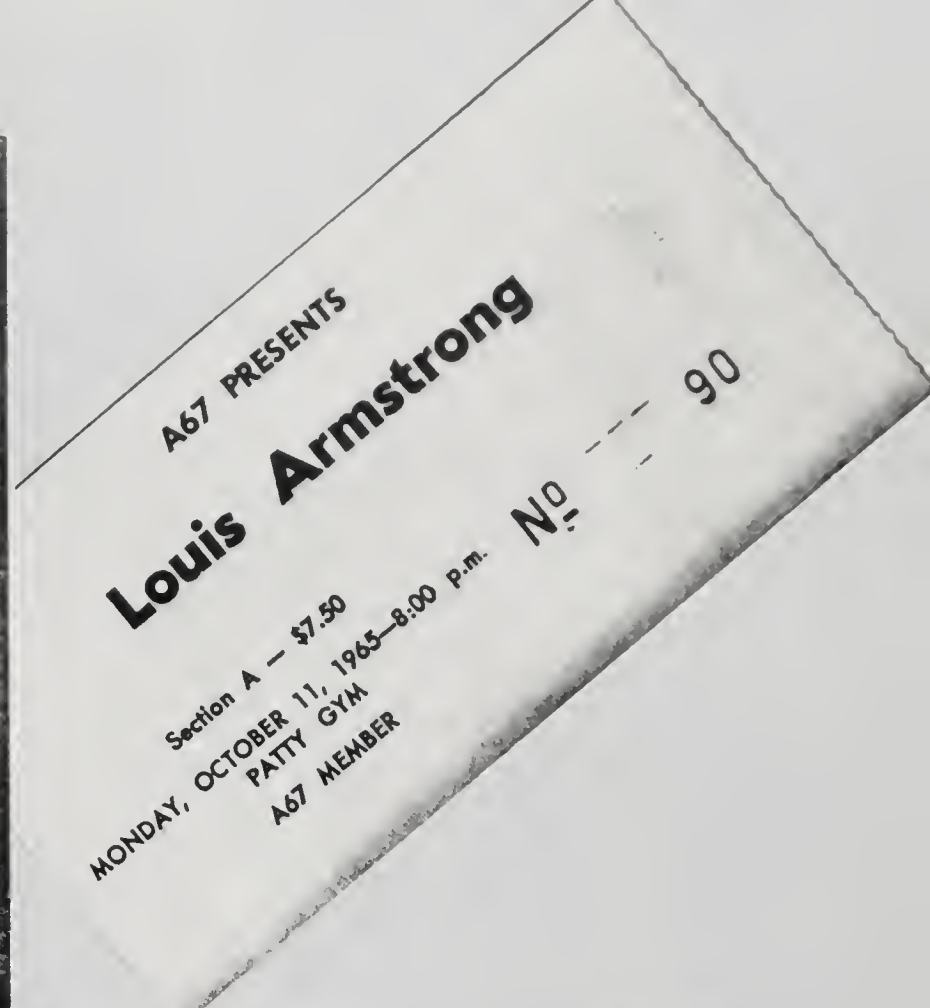
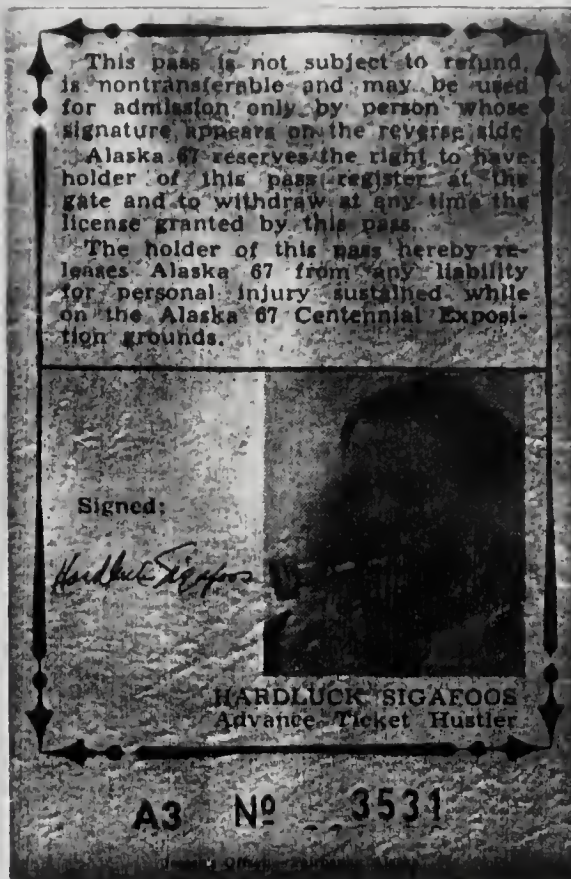
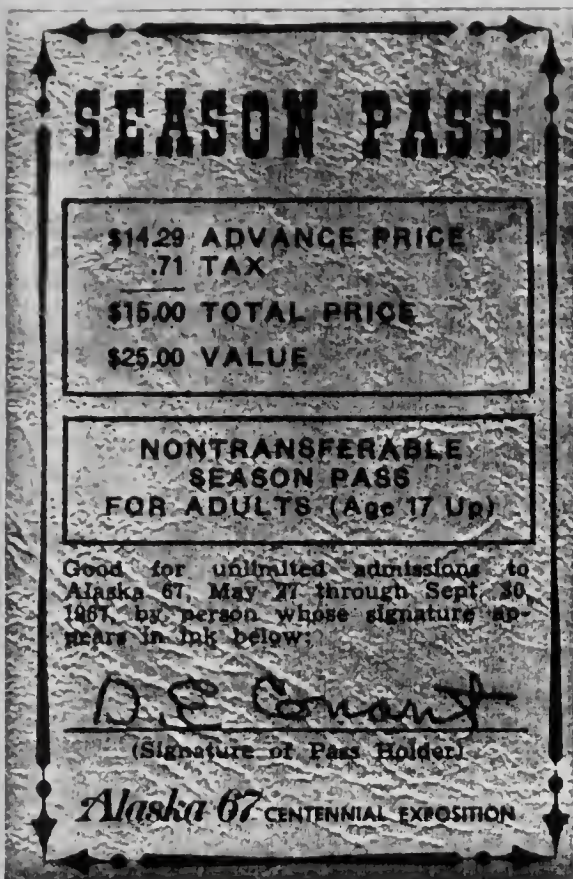
Well, of course, this is Fred Martin and William Koon, who also issued the California token from Fairbanks (B-10a). Their signatures also appear on the scrip issued for The California/Salchaket Trading Post (see ATC&PN 1980, 4-4).



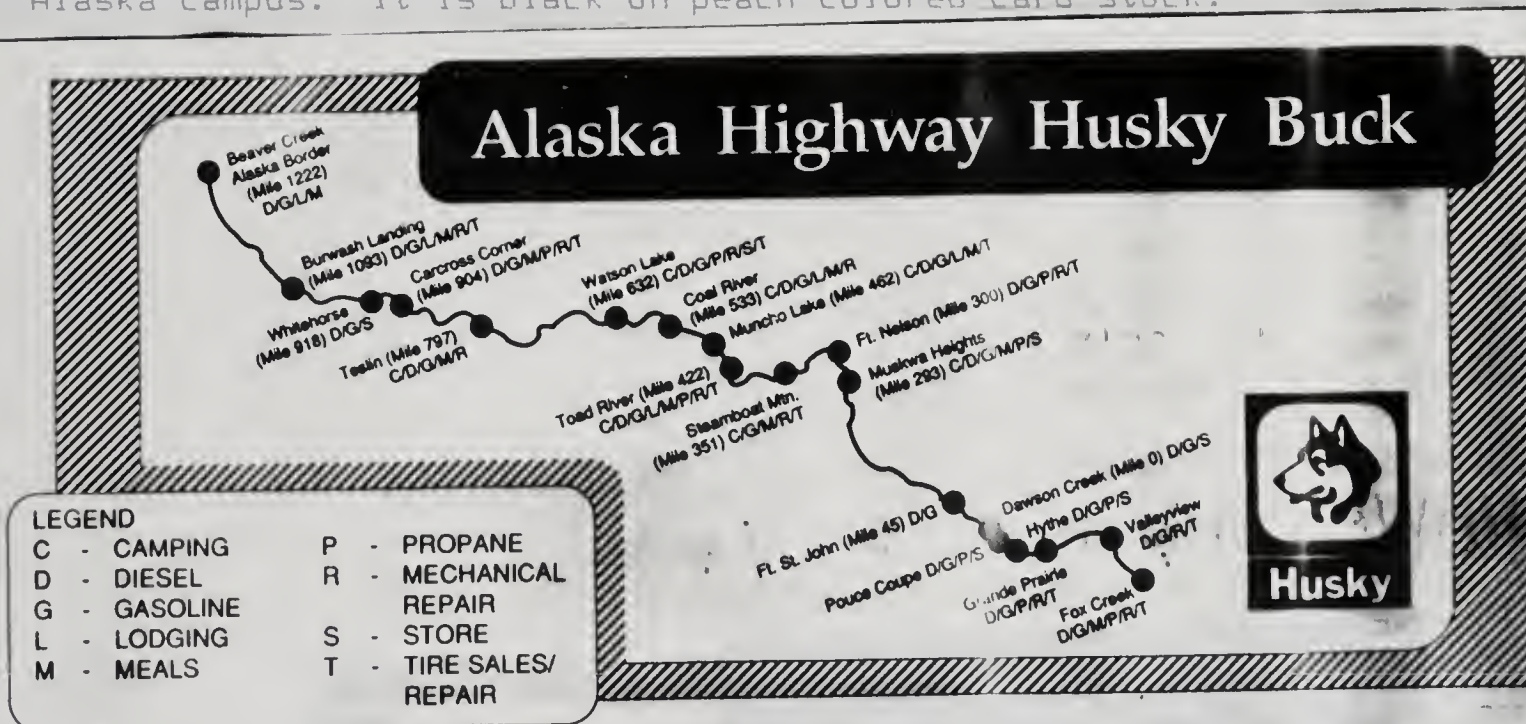
Without the watch fob to definitely connect the names on the jug to The California, it would only be a neat item of unknown origin.

Through various means, Fred and Bill made sure their names live on.





FAIRBANKS: Above, left, is the front and back of a season pass to A-67, now Alaskaland. It is printed in black on brown, leather grain card stock. Above, right, is a ticket for Louis Armstrong, presented by A-67 on October 11, 1965 at the Patty Gym on the University of Alaska campus. It is black on peach colored card stock.



**\$1.00**

Redeemable on your gasoline fill-up (minimum 25 litres) at any location listed on the back of this coupon.

**BURWASH HUSKY**  
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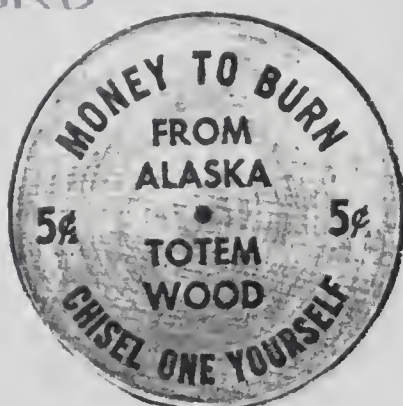
YUKON: Alaska Highway Husky Buck. \$1.00, redeemable at locations listed on the back. This one was issued by Burwash Husky at Burwash Landing. Printed in red and blue on white. The merchant is stamped in red into the back.



# FOR THE RECORD



ALASKA: Potlatch Nickel. Give it Away. Money to burn from Alaska. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHORAGE: Baranoff Lounge, good for one free drink. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



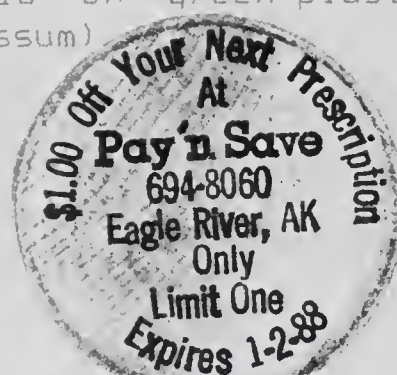
ALASKA: Silver bullion, 1/2 oz. Error, without date (1989) (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



AUKE BAY: Auke Lady, good for one drink. Gold on green plastic (submitted by H.O. Fossum)



ALASKA: FedAlaska Federal Credit Union, uniface, cupronickel. Two banks in Anchorage issued uniface tokens for parking. This may also have been for this purpose (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



EAGLE RIVER: Pay 'n Save, \$1 off next prescription. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ALASKA: Elect Brad Bradley, Lt. Gov. Aluminum, 35mm.



ESTER: Cripple Creek Resort, Malemute Saloon. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ALASKA: 1989, 1989. Brass, 39mm. Also issued in silver, limited to 1049 pieces? (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



FAIRBANKS: Pioneer Hotel, good for one drink. Black on wood.



**AUCTION:** TO BE HELD AT 7:30, OCTOBER 6TH IN FAIRBANKS. These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please write. Send bids to A.R.C.I., P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, AK 99707. Phone bids may be called in between 9AM and 5 PM Alaska time, Monday through Saturday.

## ALASKANA

ESTIMATE

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 181 | Alaskan token: Anchorage, Alpine Inn, B-5b and B-5c, 25 cents and \$1 in trade. Lot of two tokens.   | 40.00+  |
| 182 | Alaskan token: Anchorage, Canteen Bar, B-9a, 12 1/2 cents in trade. A very nice pictorial native copper. Grades a chocolate brown XF. Very attractive. Also included is the modern restrike in brass. Total of two tokens.   | 85.00   |
| 183 | Alaskan token: Anchorage, Fourth Ave. Liquor, B-17a, 25 Cents in trade. Benice gives this a catalog value of \$75. We think this is high. Let's see what you think!  | ???     |
| 184 | Alaskan token: Bering River, Hoonah Packing Co., B-1a, 5 cents in trade. A scarce token. Also included are Hoonah Packing Co. tokens from Hoonah, B-1a and B-1b, 5 and 10 cents in trade. Three tokens total.  | 100.00  |
| 185 | Alaskan token: Cape Romanzof, NCO Club, unlisted in Benice, brass, \$1 in trade. Surprisingly, while relatively modern, this military token is not readily available!  | 30.00+  |
| 186 | Alaskan token: Excursion Inlet, A. & P.S.C. Co. (Astoria & Puget Sound Canning Company), Glacier Cannery. Set of 4 tokens, B-1a to B-1d; 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents in trade. Not a round token in the bunch! Square, scalloped, 4-lobed and octagonal, respectively. We believe the site was used during World War II as an internment camp for Aleuts. | 80.00   |
| 187 | Alaskan token: Fairbanks, Chisholm & Hall, B-11a, 12 1/2 cents in trade. Very scarce token, and one of the oldest available from Fairbanks, circa 1905-07. These rarely become available, and the winning bid should exceed....  | 200.00+ |
| 188 | Alaskan token: Northeast Cape, 712th NCO Open Mess, B-1a, 5 cents in trade. Another scarce token from a remote military site (St. Lawrence Island).  | 15.00+  |
| 189 | Alaskan token: Seldovia, Cash Store, B-4a, 5 cents in trade. Scarce.   | 75.00   |
| 199 | Alaskan token: Seward, The Northern, B-6bI, 12 1/2 cents in trade. This is the first of three lots of round pictorial native coppers from Seward. Condition is exceptional, being a red-brown, AU-BU piece. It would be extremely difficult to find a nicer specimen.  | 150.00+ |
| 191 | Alaskan token: Seward, The Northern, B-6bII, 12 1/2 cents in trade. The second variety of the round pictorial native copper. Again, the condition is exceptional. There is much original luster on this red AU-BU piece. Condition is generally not a factor with tokens, but when they are this nice, it is worth mentioning.                       | 150.00+ |
| 192 | Alaskan token: Seward, The Northern, B-6bIII, 12 1/2 cents in trade. It would asking too much for this, the third variety of the round pictorial native copper to be as nice as the preceding two lots. It is still an acceptable XF that has been lightly cleaned.  | 75.00   |
| 193 | Alaskan token: Sitka, R. Witz, B-14a, 5 cents in trade. An early Sitka token, Witz was in business from 1895 to 1914.  | 100.00  |
| 194 | Alaskan token: Skagway, Idaho Saloon, B-13a, 10 cents in trade. This is the only saloon token from Alaska that can be purchased by the collector of modest means. Saloons are very popular (far more so than bars).  | 40.00   |
| 195 | Alaskan token: Sparrevohn, 719th A.C.W. SODN, B-1b, 5 cents in trade. One has to wonder what has become of the thousands of military tokens issued in Alaska since World War II.   | 15.00+  |



- 196 Alaskan token: Valdez, Copper Block Buffet, B-2a, 12 1/2 cent Trade  
Check. Grades XF, and it has been lightly cleaned. A pictorial, native  
copper token. These are always popular, with prices realized over \$100  
in major auctions. Not really worth that much, but worth 50.00-75.00
- 197 Alaskan token: Valdez, Copper Block Buffet, B-2b, 12 1/2 cents in trade.  
A very nice chocolate brown XF. We usually do not grade tokens since  
they are usually just lettering, and grading does not make much dif-  
ference. Again, a popular token. 50.00-75.00
- 198 Alaskan Medals. Fairbanks, 1967 Flood, set of four; aluminum, brass,  
bronze, and silver. This is set #41 of 100 struck. Fairly scarce,  
with sales recorded at about \$100. Set of 4 medals 90.00+
- 199 Alaskan Medal. McKinley Park, issued about 1972, souvenir medallion in  
sterling silver. Attractive, the obverse depicts the old lodge that burned  
down, while the reverse has Denali (Mt. McKinley) and wildlife. 25.00
- 200 Alaskan Medals. Seward, Mt. Marathon Race. Two sets of silver and bronze  
medals, one each 1966 and 1967. Obverse depicts runner while reverse has  
aerial view of Seward. Excellent medallic art by the Medallic Art Co.!  
4 pcs. 50.00
- 201 Pipeline Medal Set. Set of 12 silver medals, originally sold for between  
\$17.50 and \$30.00 per medal. Maximum cost when new was \$360. Also included  
is the walnut display box (a bit faded inside) that sold for \$35. Nearly a  
\$400 value when issued, will now bring about... 275.00
- 202 Alaska Business License. A provisional license for Collins & Hard of Ophir,  
AK engaged in "Mines & Mining" for the year 1922. Interesting piece of  
paper, with the "Great Seal of the Treasurer of the Territory of Alaska",  
featuring a star and key. 25.00+
- 203 Yukon Territory. Certificate of the Assignment of a Placer Mining Claim for  
the "undivided one half (1/2) interest in creek claim #13 below discovery  
on Sulphur Creek." Really interesting document with rubber stamp of Dept.  
of the Interior, Yukon Terr. Canada, Nov. 14, 1901. 15.00+
- 204 Alaskan Articles. Harpers Weekly: 2/19/1870, engravings of Wrangel; About  
1898, full page article and page of photos, "On the way to the Klondike."  
Scientific American: 2/17/12, A New People in Arctic America; 4/20/12,  
Chilkat Ceremonial Canoe; 3/27/09, Icebergs; 5/20/11, Mastering the Alaskan  
Glacier Barriers (3 pages, includes information on CR&NW Railroad); 3/18/11,  
The Capture of "Silver King" (polar bear); 9/28/12, The Discovery of a New  
People; 4/16/10, Wooden Monuments of the Northwest Coast Indians; 1/1/10,  
Achievement in Polar Exploration; 12/4/09, At the North Pole; 8/30/13,  
Glaciers and International Boundaries; 10/16/09, The Eskimo; 10/2/09, The  
Bogoslav Islands. Very interesting articles with illustrations. Most of  
the Scientific Americans are complete copies. Worth at least 60.00+
- 205 America, Her Grandeur and her Beauty, part 13, Alaska and the Yukon Terri-  
tory. Interesting large size (12" x 13.5"), 16 page booklet loaded with  
photos. The cover has separated, but otherwise in good shape. No copyright  
date, but probably early 1900's. By Union Book & Publishing Co. 25.00
- 206 Photographic Views en Route to the Klondike by La Roche. Outstanding  
photos of the gold rush to the Klondike. Most photos dated 1897. Early  
views such as these are only available in publications of the era. Well  
over 100 photos. 70.00+
- 207 Miscellaneous Alaskana. Mostly paper, consisting of Bills of Sale, letter-  
heads, invoices, Dog Derby tickets and paramutual tickets, postcards,  
newspaper ads, a Dale De Armond print and many other items. Too many items  
to enumerate. Buyer should examine this lot. 100.00+

Please send in your bids early. They must reach us by October 6th. Our next  
auction is scheduled for early March. If you wish to consign, please contact us.





A.R.C.I., P.O. BOX 2832, FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 \* (907) 452-6461 \* SUBSCRIPTION \$10.00/YR.  
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 9.

NOVEMBER, 1989.

### MEDALLIC HISTORY OF THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE



By now, the whole world knows of the tragic disaster that occurred in Alaska's Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989. The tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef, about 23 miles from the oil terminal at Valdez. Its hull was punctured in several places, gushing 10.2 million barrels of crude oil into the frigid waters.

Since its completion in 1977, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline has been remarkably free from ecological problems. Little spill have been cleaned up with no fuss.

Now, the environmental community's worst nightmare has happened. A cold water spill of monumental proportions has soiled one of Alaska's most productive fisheries, as well as one of the most scenic areas in the state. The extent of the damage will not be known for years. We can only hope that, as in many cases, the power of nature is greater than that of man.

Probably the first commemorative item was the set of four medals issued by Magdalen Uzell. This well known set features a scene of the North Slope/Prudhoe Bay on one side, and a tanker at the terminal in Valdez on the other. These medals were struck in unlimited quantities in brass, bronze and nickel-silver. Sterling silver medals were also struck, and these were limited to 200 pieces and sold in sets with the other three medals. Three medal sets (without the sterling silver) were also sold, and numbered 201 to 1000.



One of the first pieces of Alaskan numismatics to catch my eye when I arrived in 1974 was the "Alaskan Oil" medal. This medal had a rectangular hole vertically through the center, and a plastic vial with oil was place in it. Fifteen years later, a medal with the oil still

(continued on Page 47)



EDITORIAL

It is frustrating to be writing an article and not be able to find some information that you need. I ran into this problem while doing this month's article on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

When I started, I was sure that I had illustrations of every item, except for two of the silver bars. As it turns out, I didn't have any of the silver bars, but did get lucky and find the manufacturers and the mintages.

The medals dated 1976 and 1977 issued by Monte Milliken also proved to be a problem. We had a large stock of these over the years, but only one remained! So, the 1977 didn't get illustrated.

I also get the feeling that I missed a silver bar issued by one of the oil companies after the completion of the project.

Even with 10'years of this newsletter behind me, there are still gaps and holes in the information compiled.

If you can fill any gaps in this article or just have information you would like to share, please send it in!

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Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coin Investments. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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10 YEAR VOLUME UPDATE

We have finally received the leather bound and cloth bound 10 Year Volume of ATC&PN from the bindery. They did an outstanding job. The leather is black, and smells good! the cloth looks like leather, and is brown.

Only five of each were done. We can do 5 more leather and 20 more cloth if there is the need.

At present, we have only one of each available for immediate delivery. The leather is \$250 and the cloth is \$145, post-paid.

Which should you buy? The cloth is probably the most attractive, but you can't beat the feel and smell of leather. And if you just can't afford the hard bound, paperbound copies are still available for \$95.

- - - - -

PRICES REALIZED

Please refer to the insert with ATC&PN last month for lot descriptions:

Lot #	PR	Lot #	PR
181	10	195	20
182	35	196	40
183	10	197	40
184	50	198	50
185	50	199	20
186	30	200	15
187	240	201	150
188	25	202	18
189	70	203	30
190	45	204	40
191	60	205	10
192	25	206	75
193	30	207	50
194	10		

There were some very good prices realized, but some dissappointments.

The military tokens (Lots 185, 188 and 195) did very well. All of these bids were reduced. Lot 185 had a bid of \$70!

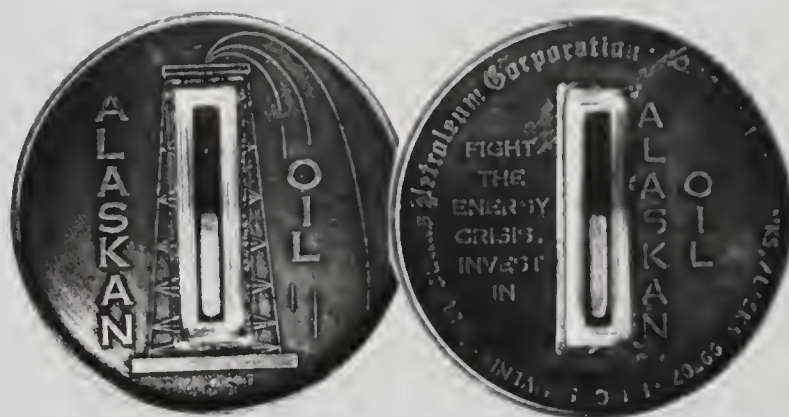
Prices on the Native Coppers and paper items were mixed. The Alaska Business License didn't do well, but the Yukon Placer Mining Claim came in at \$30.

Our next auction is scheduled for late Feb.



## TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, cont.

intact is a scarce item. Apparently, the oil dissolved some of the plastic or adhesive, and seeped out. Original issue price for this medal was \$10, which explains why I didn't buy one back then (poor student). It was designed by Bill Preising and issued by the Fairbanks Petroleum Corporation, which consisted of Vince Guzzardi, Les Thomas, Dan Gaudien and others. One side featured an oil derrick, while the other states "Fight the Energy Crisis, Invest in Alaskan Oil". Each piece is serially numbered up to 5,000 were issued, but 10 each of number 0001 were also made.



Three one ounce silver bars were issued from 1973 to 1975. In all our notes and photocopies, we cannot find an illustration of a single one! But, we did locate the manufacturers and mintages:

U.S. Silver Corporation, Alaskan Pipeline-	2,000
World Mint, Alaskan Pipeline-	2,500
American Mint, Alaskan Oil-	2,000

The most ambitious medallion program was the twelve piece, one ounce silver medal set issued by "Mack" Tierney. We were told that Mack's medal sales were so successful that he acquired 51% of the mint, Certified Mint, U.S. Silver Co. This was by far the most popular souvenir of the pipeline. Begun in 1974 with one medal, they went on to produce four medals in 1975 and 1976, and the final three in 1977. The designs are as noted below. The letters M, J, S and D following the dates represent months of issue: March, June, September and December.

	Date	Obverse	Reverse
#1	1974	Man carrying pipe.	Plain Certified Mint
#2	1975-M	Yukon River Ice Bridge	Certified Mint banner
#3	1975-J	Pipe laying in Tonsina River	Certified Mint banner
#4	1975-S	Vertical Support Members	Certified Mint banner
#5	1975-D	Yukon River Bridge	Certified Mint banner
#6	1976-M	Hover Craft	Certified Mint Eagle
#7	1976-J	Pres. Ford at Pump Station 8	Certified Mint Eagle
#8	1976-S	Pipe Welders at work	Certified Mint Eagle
#9	1976-D	AIA Herc aircraft	Certified Mint Eagle
#10	1977-M	Pipe carrier	Gold panner & oil field
#11	1977-J	Caribou crossing	Gold panner & oil field
#12	1977-S	Tanker in Valdez	Gold panner & oil field

Issue price on the first medal was \$15. This was raised to \$17.50 when the second medal came out. About a month after the tenth medal came out, all prices were raised to \$30 per medal. The last three medals were all released at the same time. A total mintage of 20,000 complete sets was planned. That meant that they could make as many as they wanted, but had to hold the mintage on one medal to 20,000! We believe that the maximum mintage was about 18,000 for medal number one while the last three medals have mintages around 3,000 each.

Walnut cases were available for the set of twelve medals, and a clock



## TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, cont.

shaped like the state of Alaska (without the panhandle) was also available.

Two error medals were created in the course of making the set of twelve. All medals have a reeded edge. The first striking of medal number two were made with a plain edge. Only 986 were issued this way. The second error was a "mule". This is the improper pairing of obverse and reverse dies. As you will note above, the reverse die changed for medal number six. The first striking of this medal used the Certified Mint banner die, rather than the eagle. Only 1488 were struck this way.

Years later, from an auction in California, we acquired three off-metal strikes: number two in aluminum and pewter, and number five in aluminum. These are the only off metal strikes we have seen.

The same designs were used to strike a 12 piece set in bronze. Some of the 1974 medals were struck in excess of those needed for sets. These are known with both reeded and plain edges. The reverse was the Certified Mint banner without the precious metal statement. These are considerably scarcer than the silver sets.

Twelve piece gold sets were also struck. One version was struck in bright yellow, 22K gold (specific gravity of 17.99, approximately .916 gold, .084 silver), with proof-like characteristics (illustrated on the front page). We believe that there was also another version, with a matte finish, and that these were 18K.



Also by Mack Tierney was the Fox Lions Club medal. This was a fund raiser, with musher Red Olson hauling the first barrel of oil from Prudhoe to Valdez. The obverse features a musher in front of some oil storage tanks and an oil derrick. The reverse has a map of Alaska showing the route of the Pipeline with the

date February 23, 1975 at Prudhoe and April 13, 1975 at Valdez. The first 100 were numbered and auctioned off to the highest bidder. The balance of the mintage were unnumbered and sold for \$30 each.

Dies similar to the reverse die of the Fox Lions Club Medal were used by U.S. Silver Co., Certified Mint, to make a three piece set honoring the Bicentennial of the United States. Obverse of the silver medal had the Liberty Bell, bronze had the Spirit of 76, and the third medal, zinc, and an eagle and the liberty bell. While these are not truly pipeline medals, they are a related issue.

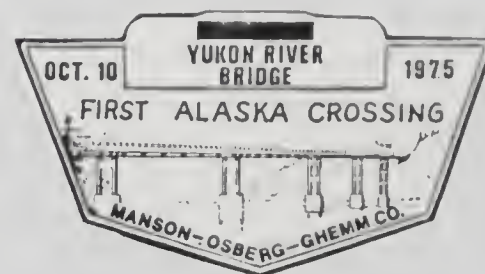
The ceremonial "Golden" weld, the final weld on the pipeline to connect Prudhoe to Valdez was commemorated on a quarter size, 10 Karat gold medallion, containing just under 1/20 ounce of pure gold (illustrated on the front page). The obverse of this medal features two welders working under the pipe, while the reverse states "Golden Weld Completed on the Trans Alaska Pipeline May 30, 1977 Limited Edition 10 KT." If memory serves me, 2,500 of these were minted. This piece was also



## TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, cont.

issued by Mack Tierney.

An attractive one inch by two inch watch fob was made by W.E. Nickell in 1975. It depicts the Yukon River bridge. These were made in bronze (\$10) and by special order, in silver (\$42).



A novelty type medal was available in the tourist shops at about the same time. With lots of money in the state at the time, hookers from outside came to Alaska to ply their trade. One inexpensive item available was a medal that stated "Good for \$10.00 of Affection at Yukon Sal's Massage Parlor Alaska". The reverse had a map of Alaska showing the route of the

pipeline and an oil derrick, with the legend "Trans Alaska Pipeline \* Prudhoe Bay to Valdez". It is cast of a silver colored metal. These sold for \$1.

There is little question which medal commemorating the pipeline is the most attractive. Apparently, Alyeska Pipeline Co. ordered from Metal Arts Co., Rochester, NY medals to present to many of their personnel a large (75.5 mm) bronze medal noting the completion and start-up of the Pipeline on June 20, 1977. This medal has a pipeline worker in arctic clothing standing in the center. The medal is divided into three sections horizontally. The top section is a scene at Prudhoe Bay with oil derrick and valves. The middle section is the Pipeline stretching across level terrain with the mountains in the background. The bottom section shows the tank farm and a tanker in Valdez. The reverse simply states "Trans Alaska Pipeline, Completion and Start-Up, June 20, 1977". It was designed by Svenson. What is unique about this medal is that the finish applied gives the impression of frost! Very appropriate for a project completed in such a hostile environment.



Two other medals, dated 1976 and 1977, were distributed by Monte Milliken. These medals were struck in bronze, brass and nickel-silver. On the obverse they have a construction scene with pipe





## TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, cont.

hauling truck and helicopter, all surrounded by the legend Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The scene on the 1977 medal is identical, but the design covers the entire obverse. Trans-Alaska Pipeline is found on the pipe on the truck. The reverse is a detailed map of Alaska. Most of these medals were used in jewelry such as belt buckles and necklaces.

Since the completion of the pipeline, only a few items have been issued, and these mostly by or related to the oil companies.

A 4 piece, octagonal bronze medal set also noted the Pipeline on one of its medals. Three medals of this set featured wildlife (the eagle, salmon and dall sheep) but the fourth depicted an oil platform on the obverse. The obverse of each medal bears the legend "Alaska The Great Land". The reverse has a map of Alaska, but the one with the oil platform has the pipeline on the map, with the legend "Prudhoe Bay". These were limited to 5,000 sets, but we believe only 2,500 were made. These originally retailed for \$60 per set, in a custom wood case. Close-out prices had us selling them for about \$15 per set.



ARCO issued a one ounce silver bar in 1984. The obverse states "Prudhoe Bay America's Oil Field 1,000,000 safe work hours 1984". The reverse simply says "Congratulations".

Exxon issued a bronze medal noting one billion barrels produced, June 1977 to January 1980. The obverse has an oil field worker, a small map of Alaska and the legend "Prudhoe Bay Field \* Alaska, and the company logo.

There is a newly issued "Port of the Super Tankers" one ounce silver medal. We have no information on this at the present time (see ATC page 39, 1989).

We have been told that there is a "Super Tanker from Hell" one ounce silver medal, but we have not seen it.

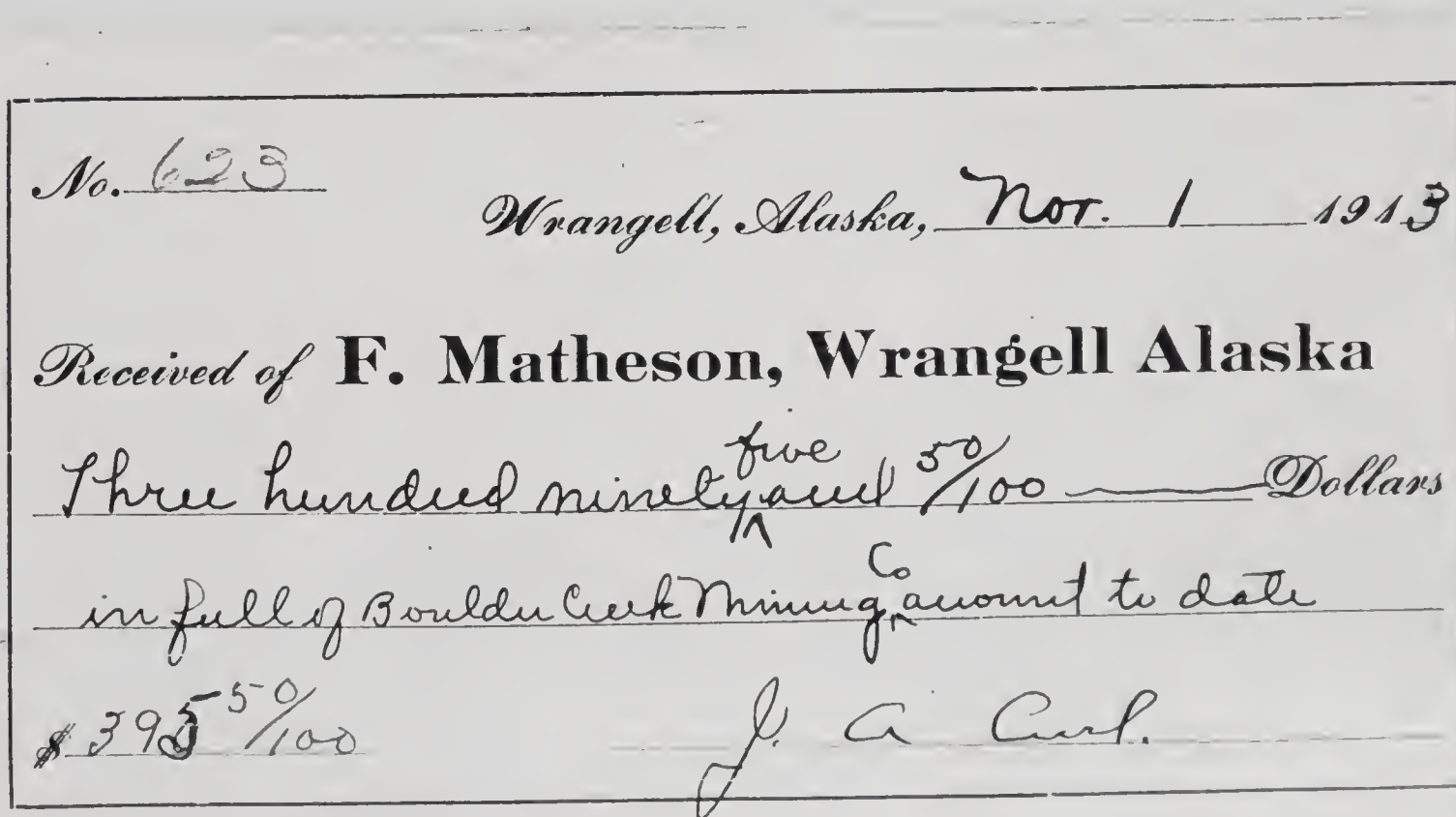
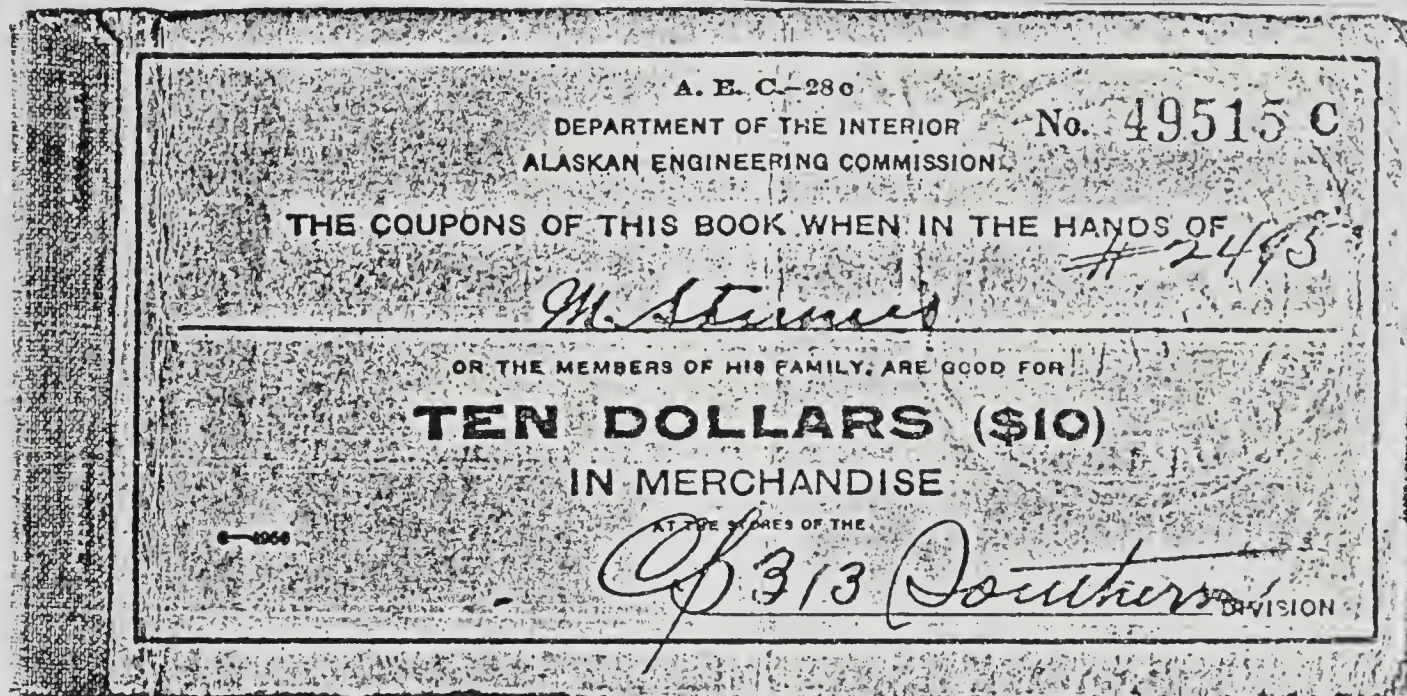
We are sure that there are other items out there, but they have not been reported to us. If you have any that are not included in this article, or know of any, please let us know!





## PAPER POTPOURRI

Ron Benice sent in the coupon booklet covers from the Alaskan Engineering Commission, the builder of the Alaska Railroad. We had some in the January issue, and these are different. Too bad we don't have a sample of the coupons that were inside. They also appear to have a seal pressed into the cover, similar to a corporate or notary seal.



Above is an interesting receipt submitted by Don Stewart. Who was F. Matheson, and where was the Boulder Creek Mine?



# FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: The Book Cache wooden nickels. Above, left, blue ink; right, black ink. Common obverse, center (submitted by Ken Rieck).



ANCHORAGE: UAA Campus Arts Fair. Reverse is Buffalo over Five/ Wooden/ Nickels. Blue on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



ANCHORAGE: Moby Dick's, 1 free drink. Black on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHOR POINT: V.F.W., One drink. Octagonal, 37mm, gold on blue plastic (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

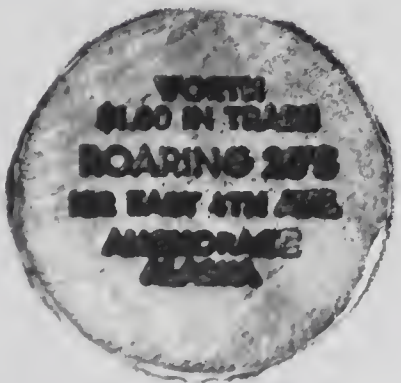
HOMER: (illustration too dark) Griffin's/ Bayside/ Lounge/ Homer/ Alaska. Rev.: \$2.25/ In/ Trade. Octagonal 37mm, black on bronze plastic. (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHORAGE: Party Time Liquors & Keg Shop, 10% off. Black on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).



HOMER: Kachemak Boots N Shoes, \$1 on all boots and shoes. Two varieties, black or red on wood (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHORAGE: Roaring 20's, Worth \$1 in trade. Lettering and design are impress into the wood, and colored red. Holder was marked "250 made."

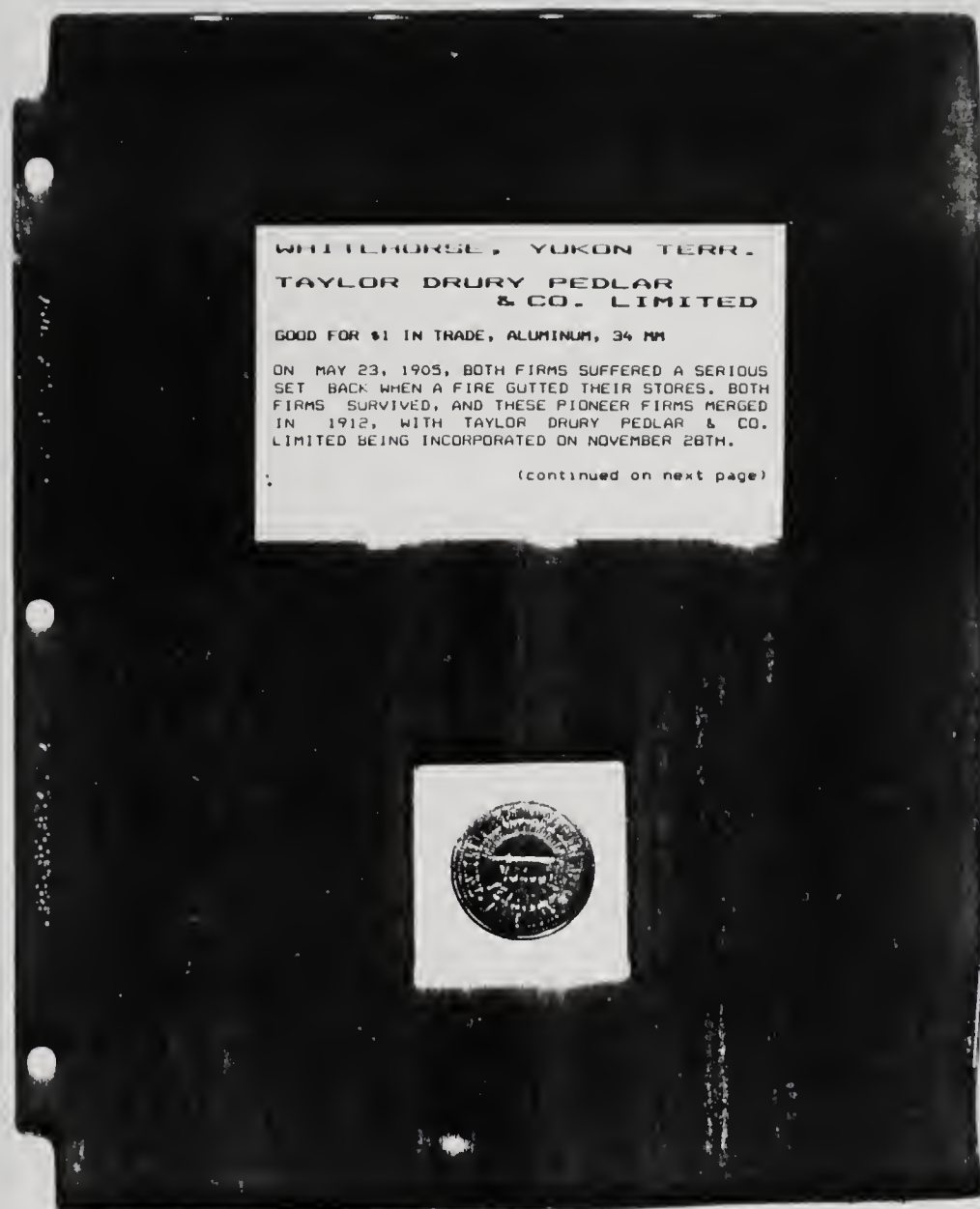


KENAI: American Legion Post 20, good for one drink. 38mm, blue on white plastic (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



# TOKEN AND MEDAL COLLECTORS'

## PORTFOLIO PAGE



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VOLUME XI, NUMBER 10.

DECEMBER, 1989.

## EARLY TRADE AND COMMERCE DURING THE DAWSON GOLD RUSH

by

Ralph R. Burry, F.C.N.R.S.

When the different banks such as the Bank of British North America and the Bank of Commerce became established in Dawson City, Yukon at the turn of the century, the office of the bank manager became the center of all business transactions for goods coming into the Yukon and also for those going out of the territory.

The miners on different creeks and rivers would send their gold poke to Dawson with a written chit stating how much gold, where it was mined, dating and signing same. When the bank manager checked the gold he would put the bank's stamp on the chit and then return it to the miner in question and credit the gold in dollars to his account at the bank. This chit was as good as cash to the miner (see figure 1).

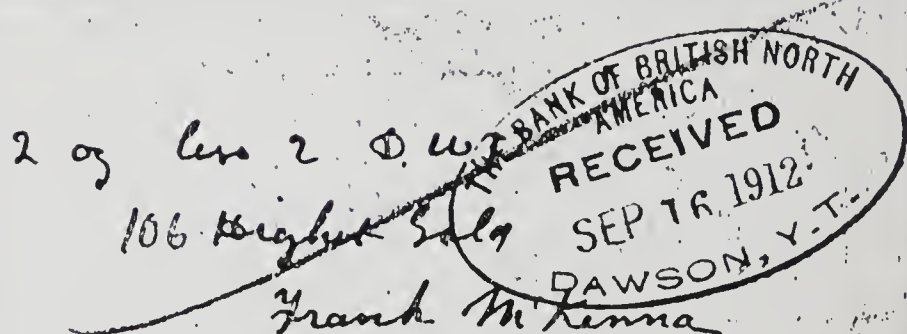
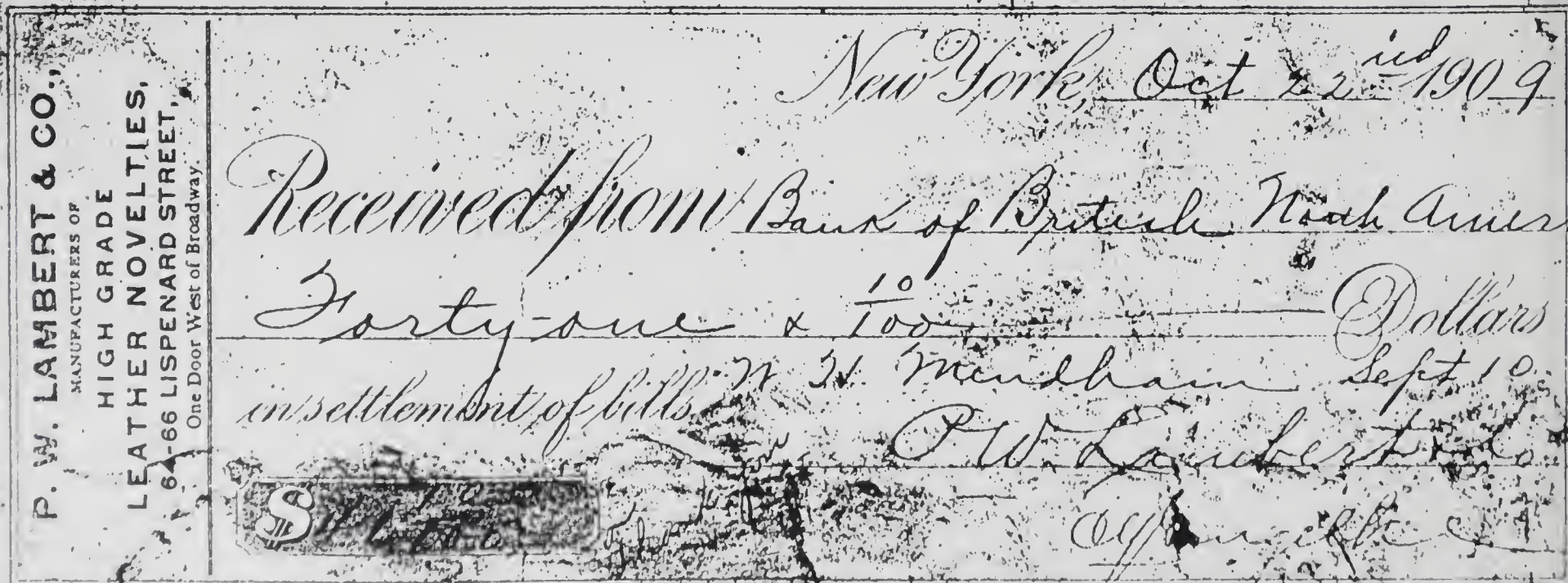


Figure 1

Miners would order their supplies from outside. This would include food, clothing, mining supplies, liquor, tobacco, etc. The merchants would send the order in bond to the bank manager, requesting that payment be sent before releasing the goods to the miner. Figure 2, below, is a receipt issued to the Bank of British North America showing payment for goods sent for W. H. Mendham (a jeweler).



(continued on page 55)



## EDITORIAL

Recently, a gentleman from outside the state "advertised" in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner via the Letters to the Editor to purchase Alaskan tokens. Being curious, I wanted to learn what type of price he would offer for a decent Alaskan token.

I wrote to him using a friend's name and address (for reasons I will discuss below). I sent a rubbing of the Nordale Hotel Bar & Pool Room token (B-29a), noting in the letter that I "thought you might be interested in seeing it". I did not offer this token for sale, although this would of course be implied by the letter.

I received a letter a short time later with an offer of \$22! That is barely over 10% of a conservative value of \$200. An offer of 50% or more would have been appropriate.

Why didn't I use my own name? I believe that had I used my name, the offer received would have been substantially different. In this case, the person making the offer believed he had fish on the line waiting to be reeled in. If the token had been offered in my name, I believe that I would have received a substantially higher offer, but not one good enough to purchase the token.

I talked with a well known token collector about this incident. He saw nothing wrong with what this man was doing. According to this well known collector, the prospective buyer had done this all over the country and purchased some outstanding tokens at very cheap prices. And, he had been congratulated on his shrewdness by others in the token collector fraternity.

But this other well known collector thought that my actions, and using another name was unethical!

A robber on the street steals \$200. At least he is honest about it. But then he gives back \$22. That makes it all right.

Next: When is a 10% offer reasonable and other ethical questions.

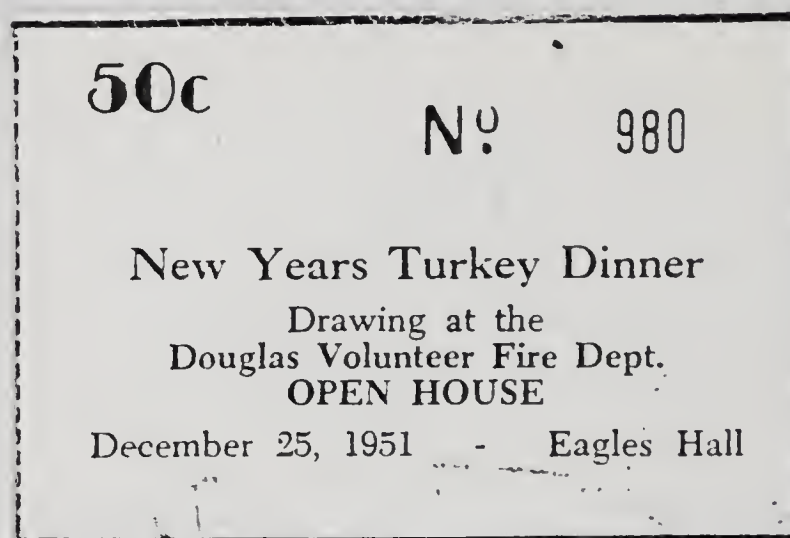
## FEEDBACK

There was a Circle City (ATC #7/89) in Montana. I could find no trace of Cooper or Eaton in Circle, Alaska but it looks right to me. Dethridge agrees. It will be Circle 3a in the new book.

There was a St. Michael (ATC #8/89) in the Edmonton area as well as in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Also some St. Michaels. I am unconvinced so far on this one.

-Ron Benice

## TURKEY TICKET



W.E. Nickell sent in the raffle ticket illustrated above. A neat item from Douglas, 1951. The winner was to receive a turkey dinner on New Year's day, January 1, 1952!

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DAWSON COMMERCE, cont.

The bank was the miner's agent for gold transactions. The shipping arrangements were the responsibility of the bank managers. Gold leaving the Yukon was shipped out to Skagway by police or military escort and loaded on different ships bound for Victoria, Seattle or San Francisco. In the summer months when river travel was possible, the gold was shipped on sternwheelers to the coast. When payment was received, credit was applied to the miner's account. A receipt for gold received to be assayed is shown below in figure 3.

From the day a miner arrived in Dawson, the bank could become a caretaker of sorts for his financial affairs. He stakes his claim, and the bank stores the record of this claim for him. He takes out his first gold and sends it to the bank, and the bank credits his account. A local purchase needs to be made? The bank makes the purchase, ships the goods to the creek, and debits the miner's account for expenses incurred. A large shipment of gold needs to be shipped outside? The banks expedite the matter, making the appropriate credits and debits to the miner's account.

So, as you can see, the bank performed services far in excess of those performed by banks in more cosmopolitan areas. Due to the large number of responsibilities, the banks required a large staff and warehouse facilities. Letters had to be written, answered and filed. Other important papers required filing. And warehouse space as needed for gold and goods to be shipped outside or to the creeks.

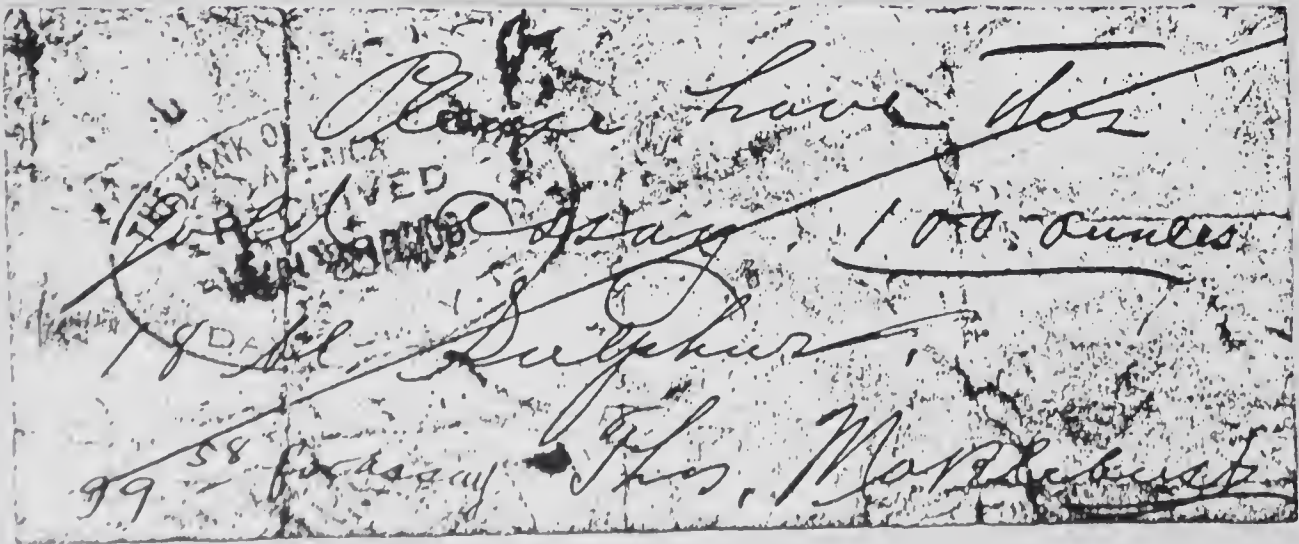


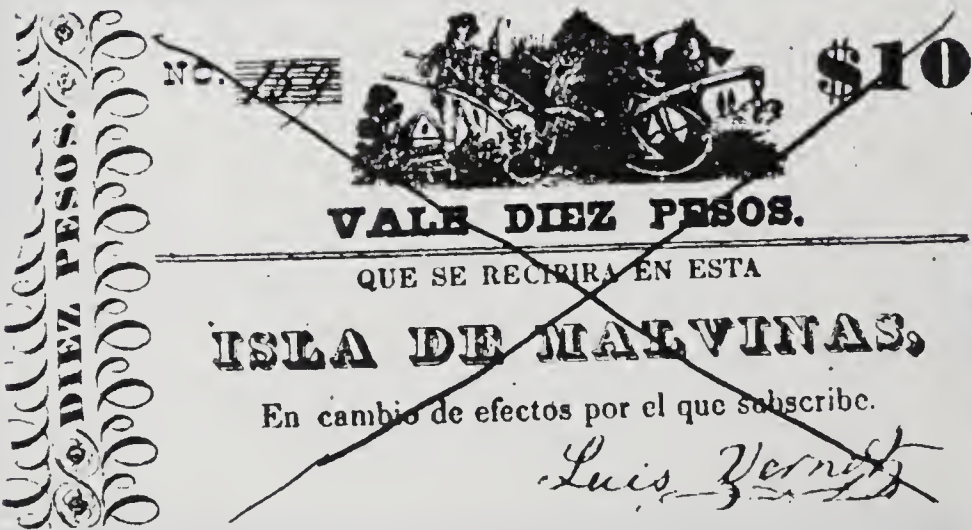
Figure 3

MATANUSKA VALLEY  
PIONEER

"October 26, 1936: Look Out For "Queer"  
Keep an eye open, folks. Francis Henry reports having a counterfeit metal dollar passed off on him the other day. This, as far as we can learn, is the first to make its appearance in camp."  
Now the question is: Was this a silver dollar coin, or one of the A.R.R.C. bingles??? (submitted by David Bennison).  
- - - - -

FALKLAND/MALVINAS  
CURRENCY

While perusing some books about the Falkland Islands, we came across the note illustrated below. (From "Sovereignty in Dispute", Hoffman and Hoffman, Westview Press, Boulder, CO, 1984).



The British occupied the islands in 1833. Prior to that time, there were Argentine settlers on the island. Luis Vernet, whose signature appears on the note above, was the political and military commander of the Malvinas and adjacent lands. His seal is illustrated below.





OUNCES <sup>43</sup> 27 <sup>50</sup>  
\$ 418

PETTY GOLD PURCHASED

DAWSON,

*Nov*

1900

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

DAWSON BRANCH

PURCHASED

*Receipt*

@ \$ 15 <sup>30</sup>

*Four hundred & fifteen*

COUNTERSIGNED,

*R. McElroy*  
MANAGER.

No. 345

Authority for payment of Money Orders and Postal Notes.

Finance Department, Canada.

Ottawa, *March 27th* 1913

To the Manager of

*Canadian Bank of Commerce*  
*Dawson, Yukon.*

You are hereby authorized to pay all Money Orders and Postal Notes which bear an impression of the Lay-Stamp, and the signature of *Alex McCarter*, Postmaster at *Dawson, Y.T.*, and to surrender them to him upon his giving you a receipt for the same, which receipt you will forward to the Head Office at which the Government Account with your Bank is kept.

COUNTERSIGNED

*W. L. L. L.*  
Auditor General.

*J. A. L.*  
Deputy Minister of Finance.

With the article on banking services in Dawson, we felt that this would be an appropriate time to illustrate the items on this page. Both are self-explanatory (submitted by Don Stewart).



## NEW MEDAL!



Alaska Rare Coin Investments is pleased to announce the availability of the "Unknown First Family" medal. The medal was designed by Fairbanks artist Ellen C. Shields. The sculpture, "The Unknown First Family" was designed by internationally known sculptor Malcolm Alexander to commemorate Alaska's silver anniversary of statehood, and was dedicated in 1984. It resides in Golden Heart Plaza near the banks of the Chena River on First Ave. It is surrounded by plaques bearing the names of many local residents embedded in granite.

The Immaculate Conception Church, an historic landmark, can be seen in the background. Denali (Mt. McKinley) is depicted on the reverse.

The medals weigh one troy ounce and are made from .999 fine silver. Only 2,000 numbered medals are authorized. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this medal go to the artist, the sculptor and Festival Fairbanks.

The medals are available for \$28 each, plus \$2 per order for postage and handling. Please use the order blank on the last page.

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

It is that time again. If the first line on your address label ends in #10/89 or TR#10/89, it is time to renew. Most subscriptions expire at this time. Please use the order blank on the last page.

Also, please take a few minutes to let us know what you like and dislike about the newsletter. Are we doing good or not?

Finally, as always, we are in need of articles and space fillers. Please share your knowledge.

## BOOK REVIEW

"120 Years of Alaska Postmasters, 1867-1987," by Ora B. Dickerson. Published by Carl Cammarata, Scotts, MI, 1989. \$15.00.

This book is a listing of all the postmasters to serve in Alaska since the purchase of the territory. It is soft bound, 75 pages in 8 1/2 by 11 inches format. The listings are laid out in three columns per page.

There are listings for nearly 600 Alaskan post offices. Each office listed contains the date of the appointment of first postmaster and all subsequent postmasters. Also noted are the orders to establish, close and move post offices, orders to rescind any of the mentioned orders, reassignment of a post master, and many other bureaucratic meanderings.

Just out of curiosity, we looked up Kougarak. William Ramsey was appointed May 13, 1902; Julius Gunderson was appointed August 14, 1902. Then the order to establish the post office was rescinded. No date of the original order to establish or to rescind that order is given.

Of interest to Sydney Wright of Petersburg would be the listing for Tonka. Oretto P. Brown was the only postmaster, appointed on May 29, 1902. The office was discontinued May 20 1905, and became effective June 15, 1905, with mail then going to Petersburg.

Token collectors may wonder of what use this book can be. Many post offices were located in the village stores. After a few minutes searching, we found Prince E. Harris as the postmaster of Hawk Inlet from 1917 to 1939. We assume that this is P.E. Harris of P.E. Harris Co., or a relative. E.C. Willis was postmaster at Cleary for about 8 months. Fred Welch and Alfred P.J. Ghezzi were postmasters Chatanika!

With some careful searching, there many bits of information to be uncovered of use to the token collector.

If you would like a copy of this book, please use the order blank on the last page of this issue.





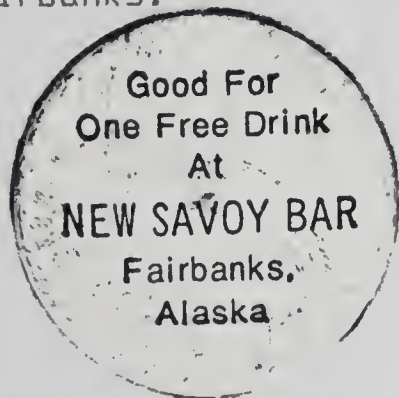
ANCHORAGE: Club 210, 1969, Have a Drink on Chic. Black on wood.



ANCHORAGE: Kitty's Cafe, Good for a Cup of Coffee. Blue on wood.



(ANCHORAGE): Leprechaun Room, Good for one Drink, white on red. Identified as Anchorage in a collection, but may be Fairbanks.



FAIRBANKS: New Savoy Bar, One Free Drink. Black on wood.



(FAIRBANKS): The Toy Quest, 25¢ Value. Black on wood.



103 MAIN STREET  
WHITEHORSE, YUKON  
Y1A 2A7

PHONE: 1-403-667-2565  
TELEX 036-8-220

This token entitles the bearer to  
one free drink at

**THE WATERING HOLE LOUNGE**

Try the specialties of the House

**A PAINTED LADY**

or how about a

**SNEAKY PETE,**

**A WHITE PASSOUT**

**OR A TREE-HUGGER.**

Yes, that's what we said

**A TREE-HUGGER!!**

WHITEHORSE, YT: Capital Hotel, The Watering Hole Lounge, one free drink. Black on white business card size (submitted by Brian Denman).



## ALASKAN BASEBALL CARDS

As many of you are aware, baseball cards are just about the hottest thing in the current collectibles market.

What most of you do not know is that the Alaska League has for years sent many top quality ball players to the majors.

The Alaska Goldpanner Baseball team was formed in 1961. Drawing mainly from college players on the west coast, they went on to win National Baseball Congress Championships in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976 and 1980.

Every summer, top notch college baseball players travel to Alaska to play for the Goldpanners and other teams. The Goldpanner organization has issued baseball cards for the 1988 team, and is currently waiting for the 1989 team set. These are referred to as their "Future Stars". If the past is a good indicator, there is a lot of truth in that designation.

Also issued were cards for 1960's and 1970's All Stars. These are sets of 12 cards produced from team photos. The 1960's set features Rick Monday, Jimmy Williams, Tom Seaver, Graig Nettles, Andy

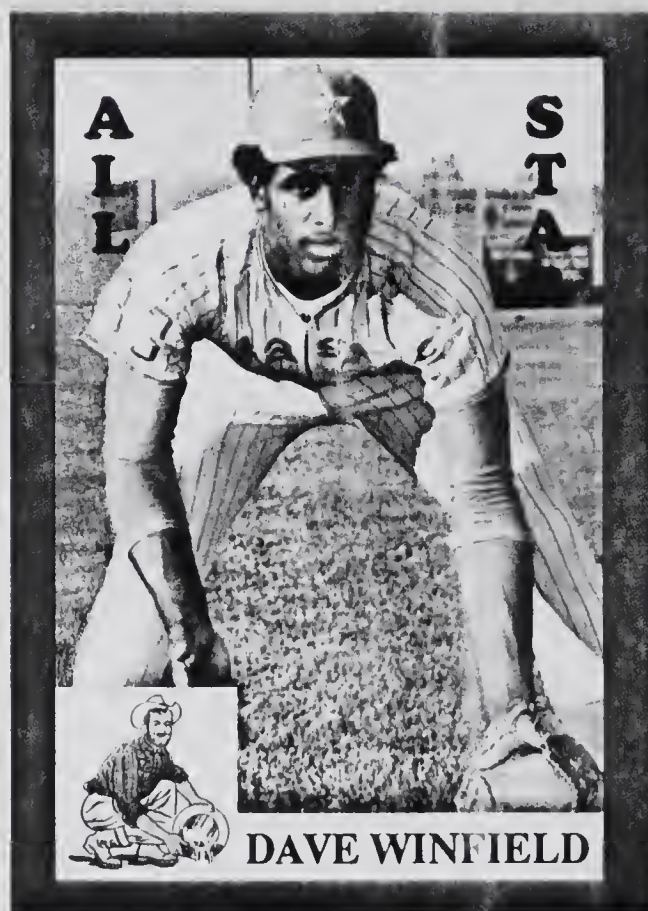


Messersmith, Bill Lee, Dave Kingman, Tom House, Jim Barr, Bob Boone, Brent Strom and Dave Dowling. The 1970's set features Don Slaught, Steve Kemp, Greg

Harris, Tim Leary, Scott Sanderson, Dave Winfield, Floyd Bannister, Tim Wallach, Mike Boddicker, Dave Smith, Ed Vande Berg and Pete Redfern.

Many of the players from the 1988 team set are currently in the minor leagues. The brightest prospect from the crop of Goldpanners are Bret Boone playing for Team USA this year; Erik Schullstrom, sure to be first round pick this year; and Miah Bradbury, currently in the Angels organization.

The 1989 team set players are sure to be no less impressive. Todd Steverson played for the Panners this summer directly out of high school. Todd was offered \$250,000 to sign a major league contract. Baseball America called him the highest rated player ever to go to college, rather than turn pro.



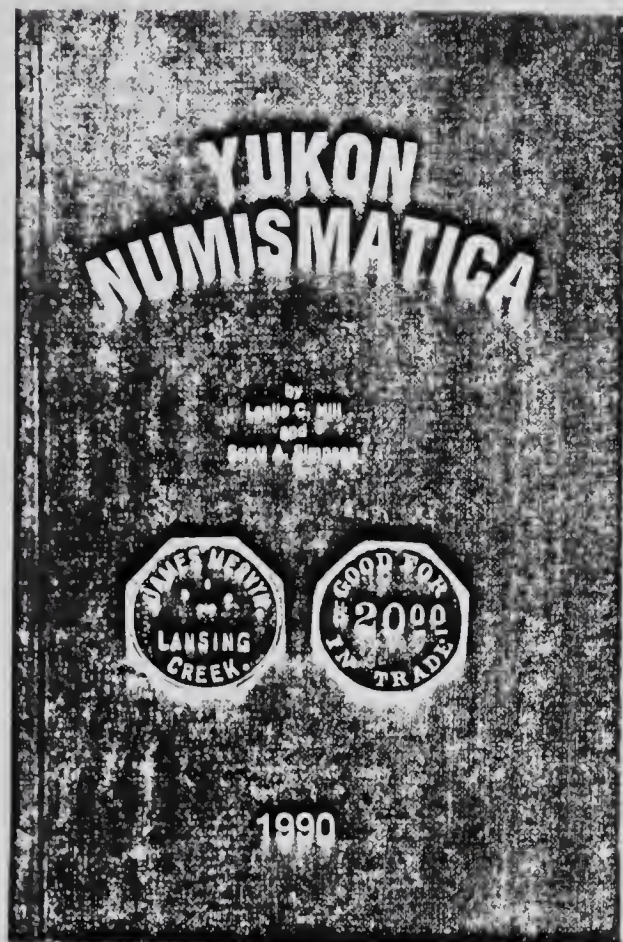
Since 1961, 104 former Goldpanners have made it to the major leagues. There is no reason to think that this tradition will not continue.

These cards offer the collector the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new Alaskan collectible. If Alaskan tokens are the most popular (and we think they are), can Alaskan baseball cards be far behind? If you wish to order, please used the order blank on the last page.



## BOOK REVIEW

**YUKON NUMISMATICA**, by Leslie C. Hill and Scott A. Simpson. Printed by Friesen Printers, Altona, Manitoba, 1989. US \$11.



It was with great anticipation that we awaited the arrival of this book. We were not disappointed.

The book is attractively cloth bound in black with silver lettering, 5 1/2 by 8 1/4 in size. Illustrated on the cover is the \$20 token of James Mervyn of Lansing Creek. The illustrations of metal tokens and medals are rubbings, while those of plastic, card board and paper are photographs.

A brief historical sketch is given of the Yukon, followed by some basic information for the token collector.

The trade token listings begin with the general or non-local issues. These listings include the old trading company tokens from gold rush days to the "stock" type tokens used by video arcades and laundromats.

After the general listings, tokens are listed by community, with tokens from Beaver Creek, Carcross, Carmacks, Clinton Creek, Dawson, Destruction Bay, Elsa Faro, Grand Forks, Haines Jct., Lansing Creek, Old Crow, Teslin and Whitehorse represented. Modern tokens are inter-

mixed alphabetically with the old tokens.

Besides trade tokens, other categories of numismatica are listed. A large assortment of Gaming Chips are listed, the most prominent being Diamond Tooth Gerties from Dawson.

The overprinted bank notes of the Canadian Bank of Commerce are given a section of their own, with fine illustrations of three notes. Privately stamped bank notes are also listed. Bank checks are illustrated, but no listing is attempted.

Two pieces of card tokens are listed, along with two meal tickets under the section titled "Card Money." While disdained by many tokens collectors, the cardboard version of the trade token tends to be scarcer than the metal version.

The section on "Scrip" list mainly two types of items. Some of the scrip was used on a limited basis for "Monte Carlo" nights or other types of celebrations. These were generally worth 1 cent on the dollar. Other scrip actually were valued at their face value. These were issued by private merchants or as trade currency.

Four wooden nickels are listed in their own section. This is followed by a section on medals relating to the Yukon.

One of the most interesting parts of the book is also one of the smallest. Only two pages are given to the gold ingots issued by the Dawson City Assay office, and another two pages to modern ingots. Of the gold rush ingots, only two survive.

The book concludes with a Miscellaneous section, and one for unattributed pieces possibly from the Yukon.

While this is primarily a book about the tokens and medal of the Yukon, it is also a photographic history of those responsible for these tokens. The book is generously illustrated with photos of businesses, riverboats and gold dredges. Adding to the overall quality are several maps and advertisements of the merchants that issued tokens.

To order, please use the order blank on the last page.





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Jerry Cleworth/Dick Hanscom

Members: A.N.A. and P.C.G.S.

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